

#### VOL. XXXVIII.

### MONCTON, N. B., JANUARY 15TH, 1953

No. 310

## **Priority Number One**

Without question, the greatest need of the nation and church is a mighty spiritual awakening. In spite of all the gigantic efforts the Church is making, with the many problems with which she is confronted, she is making very little progress.

In fact, when we analyse the overall picture, we are forced to conclude that the very best efforts of the Church avail but little and for the most part she has to acknowledge dismal failure. The forces of the opposition, the schemes and ideologies of the enemy, are gaining ground rapidly, and in spite of her best intentions, and the investment of her greatest efforts, she is not even stemming the tide, and in many instances the cause of Christ is being forfeited by default.

The question we naturally ask is: "What is wrong? Why are we not succeeding?" I think there can be no question but that our difficulty lies in the fact that we are not putting first things first. There is a solution to every problem of the Church, and that solution is RE-VIVAL!

A tremendous, sweeping, Heaven-sent Holy Spirit revival would do for us what nothing else and no amount of effort can ever do. It will fill our churches; revitalise our missionary programmes, and provide the manpower and the money with which to accomplish the evangelisation of our communities, our cities, our nation and the world! The problems pertaining to youth and the Sunday School; to juvenile delinquency and an adequate educational programme; in fact, every problem of the Church would be solved gloriously and triumphantly in the wake of a mighty awakening of the forces of righteousness! A fresh visitation from God would set the Church on fire and it would become militant! No longer would its messages be "icily nice and splendidly nil." As revival flames burned and blazed in the hearts of its members, the Church would not only be able to face the enemy, but conquer it in the Name of her risen Lord! Without question the enemies of the Cross and the Church can be routed and defeated and the Blood-stained banner of our Christ can be waved in splendid victory in the surging sweep of a glorious revival!

# License to Sin

Should one define the doctrine of eternal security, it could be frankly summed up in a very few words: it is an unscriptural reliance upon the mercy of God with license to indulge in sin. This serious error has prevailed for thousands of years—it originated in the Garden.

The venom of the serpent has pervaded the doctrines of eternal security from the very first. In substance it is "eat, and thou shalt not surely die." Multitudes have hearkened to the devil and have based their hope in this deception. Their presumption, however, denies them the blessings of God and the true hope of eternal life.

The Lord spoke first to our federal parents; the serpent contradicted his Word. Had our parents held fast to the Word of the Lord, they would have now enjoyed the bliss of Eden for six thousand years, and we, their children, would not have been brought under the curse of sin. But their false assumption brought predicted woes upon them and entailed their posterity in millenniums of sorrow and misery.

The falsehood of eternal security is obvious. From the heights of holiness and happiness, our parents fell. Their fall was occasioned by disobedience to the commands of God. It necessitated a blood-sacrifice to reinstate them into favor with God, and then they were redeemed through mercy, and only, upon condition of perpetual obedience from the moment of their pardon. w oviden and bas and been anivially solv Where is this soul-destroying doctrine found? It is found in every pulpit which compromises with sin. He who warrants "no harm things," looseness, worldliness, pride, strife, or deceit is a minister of Satan propagating the doctrine of eternal security. Oh for a mighty host of fire-baptized soldiers of the cross who would cry out against the sins of this age. Without it the Cause will be lost.-Selected.

### It Isn't Fair!

An old man plucked persistently at my sleeve. He was wrinkled and shrivelled and bowed down with age. He hung on to me through the jostling crowds talking excitedy al the while. I asked my interpreter what he was saying. "He wants you to tell him if his piece of paper is really from the Bible," the interpreter said. Then slowly and with infinite care the old man took some cloth wrapping from a folded paper he had drawn from his inside coat pocket. The page was yellow with age, its edges ragged,-and it bore every indication of having been much read. "Why, this is a page from the Book of Exodus!" cried the interpreter, and he told the old man in his native language.

"I have read this page again and again all my life," said the old man, his voice trembing with emotion. "I thought it was from the Bible, but I was never sure. There is something different about it—this I know. But I have always wondered what comes on the next page." And he began to weep. He asked for my Bible, saying it was the first Bible he had ever seen. He took it carefully and held it as one would hold a baby. He gently turned it over and over. Then he thumbed some of the pages, peering at the print and murmuring softy to himself. Past 80 years of age, almost ready to die, at last he had a copy of

These are facts which cannot be denied. Revival is our greatest need! Then let us put revival first! Let us emphasise and reemphasise this fact. Let us change the direction of our activities and the diversified objectives of the average church programme. With might and main let us "spend and be spent" in the interest of revival. Let us bend every effort, invest every energy, utilise all of our ingenuity, direct our teaching and preaching, sacrificially give of our means, all bathed deeply in agonising prayer toward the revival we cannot do without!

The times are desperate, the crises are tremendous! Time is running out, the need is tremendously urgent! May God help us to sidetrack everything else and give of our best in an all out, determined offensive for revival. Revival is our greatest need!, Revival must come first!—Emmanuel. the Word of God in his hands for the first time.

My heart went out to him. I thought of the abundance in America. Bibles in department stores, Bibles in ten cent stores. hotels, churches and most of our homes. I thought of Bible distributing agencies, tract societies. I thought of the different copies I had, different sizes, bindings, and translations. It isn't fair. I thought. There isn't equal distribution of the Word of God throughout the world.

Then I thought of the millions more in central and western Europe without God's Word—millions like this old man. I remembered how in France people had asked for the "Gospel of St. Claude," thinking that each of their saints had a Gospel named after him in the Bible. The masses know nothing of the Book, and those who have the Word usually have no one to point out the way to Christ from its pages as Philip did for the Ethiopian eunuch.

Yes, the old man had my Bible in his hands with its wondrous message of salvation. But alas, he could not read it. It was not printed in his own language. Gently and understandingly I took my Bible from his hands. I had to leave him that night "somewhere east of Warsaw."—Bob Evans, Y. F. C.

\* \* \*