

## Preachers Beware!

Ought we not to search ourselves and see how much of modern infidelity may be traced to the indolence, the frigidity, the cold orthodoxy of the Protestant ministry?

"Rash preaching," said Rowland Hill, "disgusts; timid preaching leaves poor souls fast asleep; bold preaching is the only preaching that is owned of God."

It is not merely unsoundness in faith, nor negligence in duty, nor open inconsistency of life, that mars the ministerial work and ruins souls. A man may be free from all scandal, either in creed or conduct, and yet may be a most grievous obstruction in the way of all spiritual good to his people.

He may be a dry and empty cistern, notwithstanding his orthodoxy. He may be freezing up or blasting life, at the very time that he is speaking of the way of life. He may be repelling men from the cross even when he is in words proclaiming it. He may be standing between his flock and the blessing even when he is, in outward form, lifting up his hands to bless them.

The same words that from warm lips would drop as the rain, or distil as the dew, fall from his lips as the snow or hail, chilling all spiritual warmth and blighting all spiritual life. How many souls have been lost for want of earnestness, want of solemnity, want of love in the preacher, even when the words uttered were precious and true!—Horatius Bonar.

### A LITTLE SERMON

What kind of a church would my church be if all the members were just like me?

How many services would there have been in my church last year if all the members had been away from church whenever I was?

How much money would have been given for the support of my church and for missions if everyone gave the same proportion of his income as I did?

What would our Christian fellowship have been like if everybody complained, criticized, and found fault as much as I did?

What would have happened to our Sunday School and other organizations if everyone made excuses and held back the way I did?

If everyone did as I did, perhaps my church would be better now than it is—but perhaps it would be worse. Only I know the answer.—Selected.

### SAY TEACHER —

- ... Are you really trying to get the members of your class saved?
- ... Do you pray daily for them?
- ... Do you call on them when they are sick?
- ... Are you encouraging them to live radiant and unselfish lives and thus bring happiness to others?
- ... Are you doing all you can to increase regular attendance?
- ... Do you always have a well prepared and carefully planned lesson?
- ... Do you plan your class activities well ahead of schedule?
- ... Are you remembering the special days?

Remember if God is not working in you, He is being hindered in working through you.

—R. D. Riesdorff in *Teacher's Quarterly*

## Have Faith in God!

### Not in Money

Money is not dangerous. It is the love of money—not money—which we have to guard against. Money is essential, even to the work of God. There are things which money can do that nothing else can. It takes money to buy a missionary's passage to India. Yes, I believe in money; I have faith in its place in Kingdom activities. However, the exhortation of our text is not to have faith in money. It calls on us to have faith in God.

### Not in Organization

Machinery, or organization, has its place. The Church of God cannot get along without it. Even those who do not believe in it depend upon it to some extent. Of course, the best of organizations—yes, the most spiritual churches—have their shortcomings. They are made up of human beings; and human beings are faulty, even when they have attained to the highest type of character. Nevertheless, church organizations have their value. I have faith in them. Still, this is not the emphasis of the scripture before us. It says, "Have faith in God."

### Not in Nature

Nature has its place in the scheme of things, also—as well as money and machinery. There are cases of illness which will take care of themselves if nature is allowed to do its work. The farmer has to have faith in nature. He who ignores nature and cuts across its laws will always run into trouble. I believe in nature and nature's laws. They can be depended upon; and I am glad that they can be. I much prefer to live in a world of order rather than one of chaos. Yes, faith in nature is worth while. Still, this type of belief is not the burden of my text. It urges us to have faith in God.

### Not in Men

Faith in men is fundamental to life in this world. Woe to him who has come to the place where he thinks that all men are bad! He can't believe in any of his fellow men. Money, machinery or organization, and nature need men to use and control them. It is more imperative to be able to rely on men than on money, machinery, or nature—as important as faith in them is. Yes, there are many men who are under the power of sin and fall far below the level where they could live; and yet we must remember that not all men are in this class—and we do not believe that they ever will be. Men, my fellows in life's journey, are necessary to anything like a full life on my part. I thank God for them; and there are still many of them in whom I am ready to believe. They are Christians and have no desire except to do the will of God. Yes, I am ready to trust those with whom I work, as well as many others. In spite of this fact and its value in life, I am reminded that the scripture before us challenges, not to faith in men, but to faith in God. "Have faith in God!"

### But in God!

"Have faith in God!" This is the lack of our day. More than anything else, we need a revival of faith in God. Those to whom Jesus was speaking when He uttered these words were short on faith in God; but I fear that

## WIN A CHILD AND INFLUENCE THE FUTURE

By Dorothy B. Morris

More than a hundred years ago in a little Scottish church a pastor and his elders were meeting. It was a heavy, oppressive gathering. Finally the senior elder, anxious to get his unpleasant task over, said: "Pastor, we all love you, and you know it. But don't you think you had better resign? There has not been one convert this year."

With trembling lips the pastor replied, "It has been indeed a dull year, sadly dull to me. But there was one who came to Christ—wee Bobby."

But he is only a child and doesn't count," was the verdict of that group of elders, and the old pastor had to resign. Shortly afterwards, however, "wee Bobby" went to the minister who had led him to Christ and said, "Do you think that I could ever learn to preach? I feel something within calling me, and it would be the happiness of my life if I could lead people to Christ."

With tear-dimmed eyes the old man laid his hand in blessing upon the child and prayed that God would indeed use him to bring others into the fold. When Bobby was nineteen he sailed for Africa to proclaim the good news of salvation. Many, many years later Bobby reached England again as the renowned Robert Moffat, father-in-law of David Livingstone, and the man who had largely given direction to Livingstone's life work. The Queen of England rose in his presence. Parliament stood in respect as he entered their hall. The humble old minister who had but one convert in that hard year, and he too young to count, had been dead and forgotten for many years when the world rang with the ovation to the aged missionary. But the year in which Bobby Moffat was brought to Christ marked the greatest work of that minister's life.

The attitude of those elders in the Scottish church toward the conversion of a child may reflect the attitude of others in years gone by, but we praise God that we are living in a day when Christians are awake to their responsibility to the children.

### AN INTERESTING CLASS

If you want an interesting class . . . Know each pupil individually . . . Make each pupil comfortable and "feel at home" . . . Keep each pupil working at holding a perfect attendance record . . . gaining new scholars . . . and participating individually in class discussions . . . Keep your own spiritual preparation at a high level . . . Thoroughly prepare for each class session.

—Selected.

the people of this age are worse off in this respect than they were. We need faith that God is still on the throne; faith that He is interested in what is going on in this world; faith in Him as our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer; faith in Him as One who cares for you and me and is concerned with our personal salvation and welfare; faith in His power and willingness to answer prayer; faith in His ability to break up stony hearts and give revivals of religion today; faith in the ultimate triumph of His kingdom. "Have faith in God!"—Herald of Holiness.