

FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE

OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD

All our resources are in God. The greatest one of all is God Himself. Have you diminished your opinion of God? Is God's arm shortened? Is it weak that He can do nothing any more? Has God lost His omnipotence? Is the God of Jonathan who said, "It matters not to God whether He saves by many or by few; let us go up," is He dead?

Is the God of Abraham to whom came the announcement, "Nothing is impossible with God," is He dead? Is the God of all the disciples who said, "With God all things are possible," is He dead? The God of Jeremiah who said, "There's nothing too hard for Me," where is He living? He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever! He is the God who can answer your prayers, and the prayers of the remnant of the people in your church for revival. He can send the power once again.—Harold J. Ockenga.

THIS IS THE CHURCH OF MY DREAMS

A church with a warm heart, an alert mind, and an adventurous spirit;

A church that cares for the sick and the sorrowful, that heals hurt souls, that comforts old age;

A church that knows no division of culture or class, that has no limitations, geographical or financial;

A church that challenges youth, that both affirms and inquires, that looks forward as well as into the past;

A church that reaches as low as the humblest human being, as far as the love of God, as high as the ideals of Jesus;

A church that interprets truth in terms of its own times and evaluates its own times in terms of God's eternal truth as revealed in the Holy Bible;

A church that worships devoutly, works faithfully, and wins new converts to the cause and kingdom of Christ;

A church that inspires courage and confidence for this earthly life and hope for the life everlasting.—John M. Moor (Arr.).

KILLING THE PREACHER

A church once held a memorial service in honour of the death of its pastor. A large congregation overflowed the house. One speaker told of his worth as a preacher, another told of his tender ministrations as a pastor, others spoke of him as a fine citizen, and he was given the highest of praise. Then they called the last speaker and he said, "All you have said of my brother is true. He was a man out of the ordinary and gave his remarkable powers to your service without stint or reserve. But if you had, while he was yet alive, filled the pews as you have today, and said to him what you have just said, he would not now be dead. Empty pews broke his heart, and he did not know of the love of which you have been speaking. He died for lack of the things you have today beautifully said and done." And this is true.—Selected.

WHAT THE LAYMAN CAN DO

1. He can be faithful and make a good church member.
2. He can support his church by giving his offerings and paying his tithes.
3. God requires as much fire in the pew as he does in the pulpit.
4. He can practice his religion.
5. He can pray for his pastor and do all he can to help and encourage him.
6. Say "Amen" to the pastor's preaching, it will not frighten him, but encourage him.
7. Anything that the pastor asks you to do, do it. The little things of life go to make up the bigger things.
8. Pray one for the other. Prayer strengthens Christians.
9. Be on time to Church. Nothing discourages the leader more than to wait for others.—Selected.

TEN RULES OF WORSHIP

1. Worship begins as I close the door to my home. On my way I pray for my church, for the minister, and for those who worship far and near.
2. Before I enter the house of God I pause for a moment and leave outside all things and thoughts unbecoming to the Heavenly Father.
3. The moment I enter the door of this divine house I cease all idle conversation. I come in silence for great things rise out of quietness and minister to me and those about me.
4. As soon as I am seated, I bow my head in prayer. I pray for others as well as for myself. I pray for my church and its great causes. I ask God to be near me now.
5. I join in the singing of hymns and bow my head during the amen. I think about the words of the music and let their meaning and spirit go down to the roots of my soul.
6. As I lay my offering on the plate I say a prayer of thanks for the money and ask God's blessing on its use here in the uttermost part of the earth.
7. Throughout the service I think of God objectively—as power, peace, strength, and love. He is all I need for life as it ought to be.
8. I listen as my minister preaches from God's Word and seek to apply his message to my life. I pray for him as he preaches.
9. When the service has ended, in Christain friendliness I speak to those I know and to those who are strangers to me.
10. As I exit through the outer portals I dedicate my life to walk this week the high road with Christ.—Church Bulletin.

WORLD CONFORMITY

"A new attitude toward separation has sprung up, and a new technique in dealing with questionable things has come into vogue. A gospel is preached in many quarters that is without offense, and therefore without effect. Even in conservative circles, a pleasant approach to the matter of worldliness tries to produce a new style of Christian who can be both the Lord's sheep and the devil's goat."—Vance Havner.

THE CAMPUS CORNER

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is the first appeal in the church year for payments on the School Budget for Bethany Bible College. (The only other appeals have been for special projects not included in the budget.) We have waited for the crisis hour to make this appeal. This is the time. The School treasury is the lowest it has been since September, and payments on budgets are far in arrears. There is doubt as to whether or not bills for the month of January will be properly met.

To impress you with the urgency of the need, we give you these financial facts: Churches have paid only two thousand dollars of a budget exceeding eight thousand dollars. Seven and a half months of the church year have passed and only twenty-four per cent of the budget has been raised.

Although it is true that a sizeable sum was raised to help pay for a heating system, we must understand that that money was paid directly to the contractors who installed the heating plant. In other words, that money was of no assistance in meeting current expenses, which amount to approximately two thousand dollars a month.

If you would like to know what your church's obligation is to date (January 31) simply multiply .625 by the amount set as your budget for the year.

For example, if your church is supposed to raise four hundred in the church year, the obligation to date would be two hundred and fifty dollars (\$400. x .625).

Pastors and laymen, this week will you determine what your obligation is to date and do your best to meet it? Thus your church will be a blessing not only to your community, but to a world.

Two other matters are of secondary importance: Unpaid pledges made towards the heating system are still acceptable; and contributions for the ministry of "The Bethany Hour" are needed. In fact we would like to have a group of one hundred sponsors who would give a dollar monthly.

Prayerfully consider these matters.

THE ANOINTING

"Resolving at all cost to have God's Presence and power in my ministry, I retired to my room to spend the night in prayer. Oh, the struggle of that night. Hour after hour I wrestled alone with God. My heart had been full of coldness, and I not aware of it. No wonder the churches had not come up to the work! I renewedly and repeatedly gave myself to the Saviour, determined not to let the angel depart until my heart was filled and melted with the love of Jesus.

"Towards morning the victory came. The ice was all broken, melted, and carried away; the warmth and glow of my 'first love' filled my heart; the current of feeling was changed and deepened; the joy of salvation was restored. In the morning I went out, took the unconverted by the hand, and said the same things as on days previous; but now they were metled to tears over their sin and danger."—A. B. Earle.