

EDITORIALS

A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord, a year is before me. I want to make the most of it. In the midst of world uncertainty, I do not know how many years I'll have; and if I had a hundred, I could not afford to waste one.

Help me to grow this year—but in proper proportions. Let my wisdom balance my zeal. Let my love balance my sense of righteousness. Let my humility balance my wisdom. Don't let my head become bigger than my feet. Don't let one part grow at the expense of the other.

Help me to serve, Lord. May I not want to be fed without being willing to work. May I not look for the big task because I am unwilling to do the little one. Yet may I do all I can, both small and great. Touch my eyes when they are blind to opportunity, and fortify my heart when I feel the task is too great. Fire my ambition with divine enthusiasm, and fill my soul with Thy grace.

Father, help me to bear burdens, to endure trials, and to receive criticism in the spirit of Jesus. And at the end of 1955 may I be more like the Master than I ever was before—for Jesus sake. Amen.

—C. E. S.

Remember

"When you were little in your own sight . . ." (1 Sam. 15:17)—before you discovered yourself, before you gained recognition.

Yes, that is when you were more likeable, more useful, more spiritual. That is when you were big in God's eyes. Too bad you've "grown up," isn't it?—C. E. S.

The Old Year and the New

By F. W. Davis

*How much have I done for the Master,  
How many lost souls have I won,  
Through the year that has passed into history,  
And a new year for me has begun?  
I wonder if Jesus, my Saviour,  
Is pleased with the number of men  
I spoke to about their salvation  
And caused them to turn from their sin.  
But the failures I made in the old year  
I must never repeat in the new;  
For billions in sin still are dying,  
And the labourers for Jesus are few.  
If I would press forward to victory,  
I cannot look back on the past,  
But ever march onward and upward  
Till I shall see Jesus at last.*

—Herald of Holiness.

A NUGGET

Feel glum?—Keep mum. Don't grumble—be humble.

Trials cling?—Just sing. Can't sing—just cling.

Don't fear—God's near. Money goes—He knows.

Honour left—Not bereft. Don't rust—work! trust!

—Ernest Bourner Allen

Love Is Blind,  
But the Priest Isn't

Note: A few weeks ago I had the privilege of hearing Mr. Lucien Vinet, a converted Roman Catholic priest. His message revealing in a kind and clear way the Roman Catholic doctrines and practices was most enlightening. Every Protestant—and every Roman Catholic, too—should hear him. I wished that it were possible for him to speak to every Protestant youth courting a Roman Catholic companion or being courted by one. As it would be impossible for Mr. Vinet to execute my wish, with Mr. Vinet's written permission I am publishing some truths from his booklet, "Grabbing Unborn Children." Some of the truth to follow is stated frankly and openly, but as it is only the truth that makes men free, we must speak it and write it to save our young people from the bondage of Romanism.—Ed.

In his chapter on "Mixed Marriages" Mr. Vinet comments upon the Roman Catholic teaching that a mixed marriage is not valid unless it is performed the Roman Catholic way:

"The Roman Catholic Church knows very well that the validity of a marriage does not depend on her Canon laws. The real reason for legislating concerning the validity of marriages, and especially when Protestants are concerned, is to increase her prestige and power over all Christians. She knows that Protestants are too conciliatory and sometimes too weak to offer much resistance in each particular case. She takes advantage of human feelings when two persons are in love and are ready to sacrifice much to be married. She knows that some have given up thrones, others wealth, others their families—why could not Protestants give up their faith and their unborn children to Romanism to marry the person they love?"

As the chapter continues Mr. Vinet comes to the consideration of mixed marriages "when the Protestant party remains true to his or her faith but the marriage ceremony is performed by a Roman Catholic priest.

"This case is probably the most common. It is also the case in which Protestants are most humiliated and the Roman Catholic Church grabs all—from the souls of Protestants to their unborn children.

1. Preliminary priestly warning.

"If a priest does his duty as an agent of Rome, when he is approached by a Protestant interested in marrying a Roman Catholic, he will instruct him on these points:

(a) The Protestant party must agree that only the Roman Catholic marriage ceremony will be performed.

(b) The marriage ceremony will not be celebrated in any church but only in a Roman Catholic vestry or rectory. There will be no bell ringing, no singing and no praying.

(c) The Protestant party will be warned that only the birth control regulations of the Roman Catholic Church will be allowed . . . He will be told how and when the marital acts are to be performed and the desire of the Pope that many children should be born of that union provided that they are brought up Roman Catholics.

(d) The Protestant party will be told and he will have to agree that his marriage is indissoluble except that it can be dissolved in four cases:

1. By death of one of the parties.

2. By decree of the Pope if such decree is requested by the Roman Catholic party before the marriage is consummated.

John the Baptist

Part VI

When Faith's Very Foundations Were Shaken

By Judson Sanders

Do we sometimes find ourselves in circumstances that shake our faith to the very core? In the still night, perhaps with a hurt or a grief too deep for tears, do we question why? When circumscribed and laid aside, imprisoned as it were, and forgotten by many, do we tremble as doubts and fears gnaw at the central fibres of our faith? Do we question God's purpose and plan for our lives? In the darkest, most forsaken hour of the night, comes God's answer, and the light of His smile, and our faith comes forth, as gold, tried in the fire.

Time and again God's own bow down in the valley of affliction and suffering till their souls cry out for death. Job longed for death and dug for it more than for hidden treasure. Elijah, stretched out under the juniper tree, spent and discouraged, asked that he might die. Moses, burdened beyond endurance by a murmuring and gainsaying people, moaned that it was just too much.

John, shut up in prison by the weak yielding of a corrupt king, and the triumphing of the jealous machinations of an evil queen, was cast into prison. Gone was the glad freedom of the wide wilderness, the plaudits of the throng, the solemn respect and honour of his disciples. The hours stretched empty and endless ahead. The vision dimmed, faith wavered. Was this the Christ? Was he His Divinely-appointed forerunner? "Art thou the Christ?" From Jesus' lips came no rebuke. "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached unto them." Faith grew strong, the vision bright again, and John's heart was filled with joy and peace, and he was strong again to the end—a martyr's death.

Pride is deaf to instruction, but humility loveth to listen.

In quietness is strength, stability and security. To trust God for salvation without continual evidence of divine acceptance is intellectual rather than saving faith.

Some prayers will never be answered without fasting.

—Helen Brink

3. By the profession of Solemn vows by the Roman Catholic party in a Religious Order, in certain circumstances. (Canon 1119).

4. By decree of the Pope if the children are not brought up in the Roman Catholic faith to the satisfaction of the Roman Catholic Bishop in whose diocese he will live with his family."

(Note that adultery is not given as a basis of dissolving marriage.—Ed.)

In the next issue the four other steps of surrender will be considered.

The booklet "Grabbing Unborn Children" may be purchased for fifty cents plus postage from the Canadian Protestant League, Armadale, Halifax, N. S.