

True Friendship

By H. S. Dow

"A friend loveth at all times." Prov. 17:17.

The foregoing is a most outstanding claim that the inspired writer has made for a human being. When we take into consideration the great multitude of human beings, with their great variety of personalities, with their various likes and dislikes, he is lifting a very high standard for a friend, to say he loveth at all times. The writer is putting a friend in the same class with our Lord. This makes us think of Christ's statement: "By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, when ye have love one for another." Again the Apostle John says: "We know we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren." The love spoken of here is the mark of God. If only those who love at all times are our real friends, then I fear that scriptural friends are not very plentiful. How little it takes to spoil our friendship many times when we show a very unchristian attitude toward each other. Just think what an excellent person a friend is, how precious and valuable. He "loveth at all times." That means loves you when you are poor and needy, when you are on the other side of politics, when you belong to another church or religious society. What a shame for so many to become estranged because they belong to different churches. Many people who make no profession of religion cannot understand such a thing and such an attitude on the part of professors of religion puts a barrier in the way of others who would seek Jesus. God's saving grace in our hearts ought to draw us together no matter what church we belong to, because God's grace gives us much in common. If you sin and break with God, your friend keeps on loving you still and will do all he or she can to restore you to God's favor again, instead of saying things to hurt you. The old song goes: "He keeps on loving us still."

It is true that it is much easier to love those who are lovable, those who possess a kindly, thoughtful disposition, one who is looking for the good instead of the bad in other people. There is an old saying like this: "There is so much bad about the best of us, and so much good about the worst of us, that it doesn't become the most of us to criticize the rest of us." The reason that God made salvation possible to all people is told in John 3:16: "God so loved the world." Yes, the world of sinners lost. That is the kind of love that friends who "love at all times," possess. Great God! Give us more of that kind so we can love like Jesus loved! He suffered for us, the just for the unjust and brought us to God. Christian love will win souls after all human efforts fail. The Word says: "If God so loved us we ought also to love one another." God can work miracles in these hearts of ours by His grace so that we will love the unlovely heathen and will sacrifice our pleasures and comforts so that many of the twelve hundred million heathen who have not heard the gospel will hear it.

We fear that great numbers of so-called Christians who profess to love God do not compare very favorably with the love of Jesus. If we loved like Jesus there would not be twelve hundred million souls in heathen lands now that have not heard the gospel, because the more we love, the more sacrifice we make. We doubtless could get along with less of the

things of this present life if we loved souls like Jesus loves them. We would spend less money on our homes and dwellings, etc. I could get on with a less expensive automobile, a plainer one with less showy nickel, etc.; also with plainer clothes, etc. We could get on just as well without many expensive things which we think are necessary now, because we love things more than lost souls.

Jesus said: "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory," all nations and people shall stand before Him and He will divide them in two companies, the righteous on the right hand and wicked on the left. To those on the right He will say: "Come ye blessed." To those on the left He will say, "Depart, ye cursed, for I was hungry, ye gave me no meat, thirsty, cold, needy, and ye did not minister unto me." They will say, "When saw we Thee in need and did not give." He shall say, "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not unto me," and they will go away into torment with the devil and his angels. Not a very good outlook for many of us!

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

A noted evangelist was once holding a series of services in a church whose minister was a man of long experience and of great influence. One night as they sat on the platform together, the minister pointed out to the evangelist a man in the congregation. Said he, "For twelve years I have tried in vain to win that man to Christ. I have preached to him so long that I sometimes find myself doing it unconsciously."

"From the pulpit?" asked the evangelist.

"From the pulpit, yes."

"How many times have you gone to him with the love of God in your heart and said, 'I want to see you become a child of God?'"

"I must confess," said the minister, "that I have never spoken to him personally and directly concerning his salvation."

"Then," said the evangelist, "perhaps he is not impregnable after all."

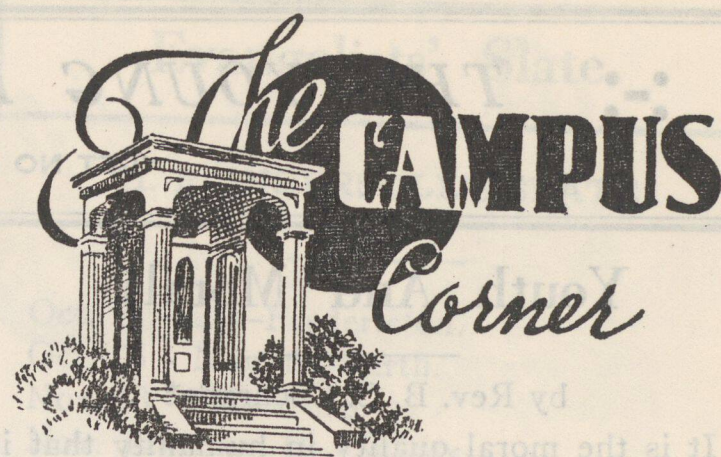
That night the evangelist, after the service, caught the man before he got to the door. He spoke only a few words, but they were earnest and loving. And the next evening, in the service, the man was on his knees with tears streaming down his cheeks. It was the personal touch that did it.—The Christian Intelligencer.

THE MAN WHO WINS

The man who wins is an average man!
Not built on any particular plan,
Not blessed with any particular luck;
Just steady and earnest and full of pluck.
When asked a question he does not "guess",
He knows and answers "no" or "yes"
When sent to a task the rest can't do
He buckles down till he's put it through.

So he works and works till one fine day
There's a better job with higher pay,
And the men who shirked whenever they could
Are bossed by the man whose work made good.
For the man who wins is the man who works;
Who neither trouble nor labor shirks,
Who uses his hands, his head, his eyes.
The man who wins is the man who tries.

—Selected



NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT BETHANY

Bethany Bible College has opened for the new school year. Activities got under way on Wednesday, September 21, with registration of students, some of whom, by the way, were delayed in their arrival due to hurricane "Ione". Registration totals are incomplete as yet; at least six Bible students and some high school students will be a week or two late. To date thirty-five students have registered, four in the Bible Department and thirty-one in the High School Department—twenty boys and fifteen girls, representing many areas of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Maine.

Orientation activities were held on Thursday, on which day, also, classes for the term were begun. On Friday evening, the annual Students' Reception was held in the dining hall of Rogers Residence. After a few words of welcome by President Green and prayer by Rev. L. K. Mullen, there followed a programme of singing and games under the direction of Mr. Douglas MacCallum. Lunch was served by the wives of faculty members.

A communion service followed the morning sermon on opening Sunday. Rev. B. M. Hicks assisted the pastor in this service.

On Monday evening, the faculty members met for dinner at the "Sea Food Restaurant" in Hebron, a few miles outside Yarmouth. Following dinner they enjoyed an evening of fellowship at the president's apartment on Prescott Street. Several changes have been effected this year in the school faculty. Rev. W. E. Green has accepted the presidency, succeeding Rev. N. E. Trafton, and Mr. M. D. Mitchell has been named high school principal. Two new teachers have joined the staff, Rev. B. M. Hicks as Bible Teacher and business manager, and Rev. Karl Gorman as part-time high school teacher. Rev. L. K. Mullen has taken over the duties of college pastor and will continue to teach in the Bible Department.

RECIPE FOR A GROWING SUNDAY SCHOOL

Take a reasonable measure of interest
Add a generous amount of enthusiasm
Blend in a large quantity of co-operation
Mix well with the above a good spirit of faithfulness
Season the whole with a steadfast purpose to glorify God
Stir constantly and prayerfully over fervent heat and serve warm two or three times a week.

WHAT IS CHARITY?

It's SILENCE when your words would hurt,
It's PATIENCE when your neighbour's curt.
It's DEAFNESS when the scandal flows,
It's THOUGHTFULNESS for another's woes;
It's PROMPTNESS when stern duty calls.
It's COURAGE when misfortune falls.

—Clipped