

THE PERILS OF POOR PREACHING

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right when he wrote: "Much study is a weariness of the flesh." It is poor preaching that does not create a consciousness of God in Christ, offering redemption here and now. There must be an atmosphere of nearness to Christ which in itself provokes men to a response of obedient faith.

It is poor preaching which makes only minor emphasis upon the forgiveness of sins, the atonement for sin. The last commission of the Lord Jesus to his ministers was and is, that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name."

It is poor preaching that makes no use of illustrations. A layman said decently, "He boasts that he uses no illustrations, and he is utterly dull"; another said, "The average preacher has too few 'for instances'." Human-interest stories of experience are the best. They should be told well. A good story in a sermon is a window in the wall of argument.

A good sermon must be as clear as crystal about sin, redemption, and how redemption from sin may be had. For forty years I have felt the rebuke of a man who heard me preach. Afterwards he said to a friend, "It was a good sermon, but the preacher put too much emphasis on sin and too little emphasis on the remedy." The preacher must never preach without blood in the basin. It is poor preaching that makes many diagnoses but writes no adequate prescription of a healing remedy.

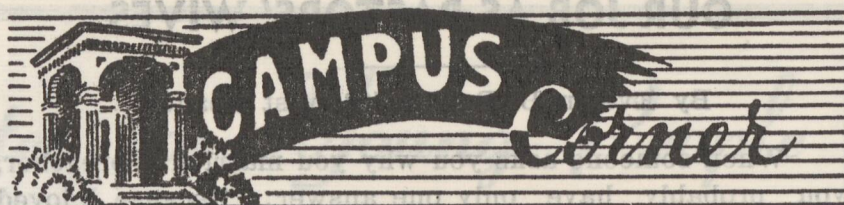
It is poor preaching when the sermon has no drill probing for the nerve centers of the secret, inner self of those who hear. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart" (Acts 2:37), was what happened when the elders preached. It is poor preaching which arouses no emotion save a complacent satisfaction with one's status quo. The gospel is a flowing stream of heart interests. Its healing waters cleanse, revive, and comfort. Among my most cherished treasures are two letters that came on a Monday. One was from a lawyer who wrote: "As always when I hear you, I came away with new courage for the days before me and their tasks." The other came from a traveling man who found an occasional seat in my congregation. He wrote, "I heard you again today, and came away, as always when you preach to me, feeling as if I had had a bath."

It is poor preaching that lays no siege to the citadel of man's will. The gospel makes demand upon all who hear for surrender to the absolute lordship of Christ in life. The preacher must make no compromise here nor offer the sinner any appeasement. The preacher must be a good salesman and obtain the sinner's signature on the dotted line.

The preacher must in his parish be first of all a man of God. All his preaching will be vain unless he is in the best and sanest sense a holy man. In him, again, the Word must become flesh and dwell among men, "full of grace and truth." There is a spiritual osmosis about such a man which gives point and power to his preaching. Its absence disrobes the preacher and robs his preaching of power. His passion for Christ never must cool. His compassion for men never must wane. It is poor preaching that does not bring God within reach of men, nor bring men into fellowship with God in Christ.

HAS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED?

The King's Highway



SPECIAL VISITORS TO BETHANY

Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong, of the World Gospel Mission, and Mr. Frith and Rev. C. Ousley of the O.M.S., were recent visitors at Bethany Bible College. The ministry of these missionaries was a blessing to faculty and student alike.

DIME REPORT

Many of our people have been asking if our Dime Calendars were any help to Bethany. The answer is Yes. The Dime Calendars which were introduced a year ago, have brought \$18,032.00 to Bethany's treasury. Had it not been for this we would have had an enormous deficit last year.

We want to thank the participants for helping us in this plan. A number of churches, Sunday Schools, Sunday School classes, Young People's groups and numerous individuals have made use of the Dime Calendars.

Yes, the Dime Calendars are still in use. You may get your Bethany Dime Calendar from the Treasurer, Bethany Bible College, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Let's increase the army of dimes and keep them marching to Bethany.

GOOSE BAY TO BETHANY

We were recently thrilled to receive a contribution of \$22.00 as a special offering to Bethany from Goose Bay Airport. A small group of Christian friends gather Sunday evenings for a religious service. The offering taken in one of their recent services was forwarded to Bethany. We are grateful for this splendid contribution. May God bless Bethany's friends in Labrador.

BUDGET THERMOMETER

- ★ Bethany Budget to date:—69% behind schedule
- ★ 73% of our churches have made no contribution on their Bethany Budget to date. Are we able to say, "We are labourers together with him . . .?"
- ★ Bethany needs your HELP—NOW!

PERSONAL GIFTS

Please make your personal gifts to Bethany direct to the treasurer. Make your cheques and Money Orders payable to Bethany Bible College.

FIVE SOUL WINNERS

A business man in Wales spoke to his office boy about his soul and from that word a work began that won his entire office force to Christ.

A merchant in England determined that no day should pass without his speaking to someone about Christ; in one year he had led scores to the Master.

An invalid Christian woman in Australia, for thirty years unable to put her foot to the floor, by means of her pen and prayer led forty people to Christ in a single year.

A Christian gentleman spoke to his servant while they were walking together; the boy became a Christian and later a minister of the gospel.

A Sunday School teacher took one of her class of boys for a walk on Sunday afternoon when the session of the school was over; she told him of her concern that he should become a Christian, and had the joy of seeing him take his stand for Christ. —Sel.