

GASHMU THE GOSSIP

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Saviour's statement of the second greatest commandment: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself?" How does it harmonize with Paul's appeal to the Christians of his day: "Accept life with humility and patience, making allowances for each other because you love each other. Make it your aim to be at one in the Spirit, and you will inevitably be at peace with one another" (Ephesians 4:2, 3—Phillips)?

"It is reported . . . and Gashmu saith it!"

"They say!" Ah, well, suppose they do;

But does that make the story true?

Suspicion may arise from naught

But malice, envy, want of thought.

Why count yourself among the 'they'

Who whisper what they dare not say?

"They say!" But why the tale rehearse,

And help to make the matter worse?

No good can possibly accrue

From telling what may be untrue.

And is it not the better plan

To speak of all the best you can?

"They say!" Well, if it should be so,

Why need you tell the tale of woe?

Will it the bitter wrong redress?

Or make one pang of sorrow less?

Will it the erring one restore

Henceforth to 'go and sin no more'?

"They say!" Oh, pause and look within,

See how thy heart inclines to sin;

Watch, less in dark temptation's hour

Thou, too, shouldst sink beneath its power.

Pity the frail, weep o'er their fall,

And speak of good or not at all!"

SPIRITUAL SOLIDNESS

"None of these things move me" Acts 20:24

Stillman E. Cameron

The design of the Indwelling Spirit is to bring every believer into a state of spiritual steadfastness. God wants to so situate us that, come what may, we shall be steadfast and unmoveable in the things of the Lord.

Quite evidently Paul had acquired such a disposition of soul, for he looked into the teeth of the most disturbing odds and confidently declared, "None of these things move me."

Things. Little things. Every day things. How they move and upset us! We become so disturbed when the odds get all out of proportion, and our little world is crammed with afflictions. Afflictions? Certainly. Reverses too? Of course. Misunderstandings? Yes. And they pain us, just as they are meant to, but they need not move us. Too many Christians lapse into a mild state of backsliding when they meet with hardship and trial. But hear Paul again: "The Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me". That is spiritual solidness!

Would you learn why "things" did not move Paul? Then read on. "Neither count I my life dear unto myself". Could you fix your signature to the bottom of that statement? The general run of us think quite dearly of ourselves, do we not? But the reason Paul gave so little account to things was that he gave so little account to

himself. If we are easily moved off centre by "things", then we are living an overly sensitive self life.

Beloved, we need not be unsteady in our experience. God has provided some better thing for us. We can become so deeply entrenched in Jesus, so firmly fastened to the Vine, that nothing of the devil's manufacturing can move us. Let him roll out his heaviest engines; let him train his biggest guns upon us. By the Grace of God, his barraging will move us not an inch! If we are moved, the only permissible direction is toward Jesus.

You see, God wants us to be strong, steady Christians, and He has made every provision for our being such. Peter told the believers of his day that God could "Strengthen, stablish, settle" them. (I Peter 5:10). But somehow it doesn't seem in keeping with the Apostle's teaching if we have a testimony today but none tomorrow; at prayer meeting this week and away the next three; in victory one day and out of victory the next. Surely he had something more substantial in mind.

We are not speaking of hardness remember, but solidness, and there is a profound difference here. Spiritual hardness comes through the deceitfulness of sin; solidness through the discipline of the Spirit. Enduring hardness, however, makes for spiritual solidness, and that is an important distinction.

Fasten your self life to the cross, and the Holy Spirit will fashion your redeemed personality into a solid force for Jesus. Then, if need be through tears, you may say of the most distressing circumstances, "None of these things move me."

WHY I KEEP MY CHURCH VOWS

By W. C. Lovin

When I united with the church several years ago I answered in the affirmative to about five questions and the church covenant. Since then I have tried, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live up to the vows I took at that time. There are several reasons why I feel under obligation to be faithful in observing them to the very best of my ability. Here are some of them.

I made them to God. I know the preacher asked the questions and the members of the church voted on my reception, but I was identifying myself with God's house, God's cause and God's people, therefore I feel that I made my vows to God, and will have to answer to Him as to how I have regarded them.

I do not want to give an occasion for reproach upon the church. The church is made up of individuals, and I am one of those individuals. What I do or fail to do will help to determine the estimation the community has of the church. I would like to commend my church to those with whom I come in contact day after day.

I want to be a good example of how a church member should conduct himself. I may not be a perfect example, but if anybody is influenced by my attitude toward the church and its requirements, I want it to make them better church members.

So far as my part in the program is concerned, I want to hand over to the next generation a church just as good in every respect as I found it, and if possible, a little better. I don't want them to find any scars or blemishes because of my failures positively or negatively. For this I pray most earnestly.

When I meet the Lord I want to be able to tell Him that I have endeavored to be a good church member as well as a good Christian.

—Wesleyan Methodist.