— Editorial — MAKING LIGHT OF THINGS

Making light of things is a common characteristic of our age. It was also a characteristic at the time of Jesus' ministry on earth. In Matthew 22:5 there is recorded a reaction of a group of people to an invitation to a wedding feast. "They made light of it". What could have been a joyous occasion was turned aside in a jovial manner. This truth is more serious than ordinary matters because it refers to the Kingdom of Heaven.

There are some situations in life where the ability to make light of things is an asset. The basic aspects of life, however, must be considered very seriously. In spite of the common sense of this fact, many people are making light of most serious concerns.

Many people are making light of life. This statement seems ridiculous in the face of modern world conditions. The motto for the multitude seems to be "eat, drink and be merry . . ." They forget the proverbial saying also states a basic fact regarding death. Life for others is regarded as "a saunter instead of a pilgrimage, a game instead of a battle. "Young people, life is serious business. Demands are made upon us in this earthly pilgrimage. In this pilgrimage there are battles to be fought. To make light of life is to fail to realize that Christianity offers men a joy in conflict; and satisfaction in the pressures of life. God's demand is that we live the abundant life with all seriousness, realizing the need of discipline in service.

There are many people who make light of sin. Sin is not an outmoded theological term, as some suppose. Sin is a spiritual fact. It warps the lives of youth, and "when it is finished it bringeth forth death". We cannot make light of sin because it cannot be put right by systems of education; by political and economic policies. It is properly dealt with by repentance and confession before God. We cannot treat life seriously until we have dealt with sin adequately. To deal adequately, with sin involves accepting Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. To fail to accept Him as Saviour is to make light of sin.

We cannot make light of sin because it leads to death. It kills our spiritual appetite; murders the desire to pray; butchers the plan of God for our lives, and paralyzes the world. Sin damns the soul. It is not only the heart of the world's malady, it is the cause of personal heartache, anxiety and despair. It must not be made light of. It must be dealt with serious thought and the help of God.

Finally there are those who make light of God. To make light of sin is to make light of God. It is to make light of His remedy for sin. To hear the Bible read or to read it and believe that it is the word of God without obeying its precepts is to make light of God.

We also make light of God by failing to acknowledge His claims upon our lives. He demands something of every creature. God demands something of us in social living. To fail to measure up to his standard for our lives it to make light of Him. We do not need to ignore God completely to make light of Him. We make light of Him when we pray, "Our Father" and refuse to be kindly affectionate toward all men. We make light of Him if

our appointment in His house on Sunday is easily put aside. We make light of God if we compartmentalize our lives, failing to give God complete control. Mankind everywhere must learn to treat life as a serious concern. Sin must be blotted out of the life. God and His demands must be considered with grave concern. We would do well to admit with the apostle Paul. "In Him doth all things consist, and in Him we live and move and have our being".

JUSTIFICATION

by C. W. Ruth

We do not teach that justification is a half-way work. We do rather say that justification comprehends at least eight perfect works. First, there is conviction; second, repentance; third, a faith that perfectly trusts God; fourth the pardon of every sin; fifth, the washing of regeneration; sixth, the quickening of the soul in newness of life; seventh, adoption; eight, the witness of the Spirit. Although all these are comprehended in what we commonly term conversion or justification and occur simultaneously, they are nevertheless distinct and each one a perfect work within itself. So that you see we have no disposition or occasion to underrate or minify the experience of justification: but all these have to do with sin as an act. The work of cleansing or the experience of sanctification has to do with sin inherited, sin as a tendency — That some thing known as imbred sin or original sin. We cannot repent of something we have not done, and neither can God forgive us of something that we have not done, hence, He promises to wash and cleanse it away, which is the second subsequent experiment.

—Holiness Echoes

SANCTIFICATION

by Adam Clark

The whole design of God was to restore man to His image, and raise him from the ruins of his fall; in a word, to make him perfect, to blot out all his sins, purify his soul, and fill him with holiness, so that no unholy temper, evil desire, or impure affection or passion shall either lodge or have any being within him. This, and this only, is true religion, or Christian perfection; and a less salvation than this would be dishonourable to the sacrifice of Christ, and the operation of the Holy Ghost, and would be as unworthy of the application "Christianity" as it would be of that of Holiness or perfection.

— Holiness Echoes

OBEDIENCE SOME MONTH AND THE

To be a Christian is to obey Christ no matter how you feel.

-H. W. Beecher

True Obedience to God is the obedience of faith and good works; that is, he is truly obedient to God who trusts Him, and does what He commands.

-Martin Luther