

- Editorials -

THE STANDARDS OF OUR CHURCH

Many of us remember so well how that when we were growing up we wondered about the "do's" and the "don'ts" of our particular denomination. How come that others could do a certain "this" and we could not? We must confess that at times, as children, we could not see the reasoning behind certain restrictions that were placed upon us. It seemed that we had more law than liberty. Sometimes our choice to obey left us alone, separated from the group, wondering in our hearts, "Is this really necessary in order to be right, to be a Christian?"

But the passing of the years has done a wonderful thing. It has shown to us, plainly, the wisdom of those who gave us guidance. Our fathers were wiser than they knew! For, if there had to be error, it was far better to err on the side of right than on the side of wrong. Our concern, from the beginning, has been to raise up a holy people. To do less is to fail in our calling as a church. To chart a course that promotes a life of holiness in the midst of a world of sin and unrighteousness is not a small assignment. That, however, has been our task.

On the issue of tobacco, for example, our fathers were wise. In this day when the weight of evidence is against the use of tobacco in any form, and when its use has again become a moral issue, it is good to know that our church has been on the safe side. No born-again, spirit-filled Christian has time nor money to spend on tobacco. As far as we are concerned the same argument applies to other rules that our Church has laid down as being beneficial to the holy life.

This is not to suggest — God forbid — that simply "keeping the rules" is a substitute for personal faith and salvation. However, we are convinced that our standards have been safe ones and wise ones. We are prepared to defend them for we have seen their long-run benefits.

As a denomination we are moving into the seventy-fifth year of our existence. At this point it is very much in order to examine ourselves — our objectives, and our mission. It might even be well to re-examine our standards. They may not be high enough. But at this point we are happy to say, "Thank God for the standards of our Church."

HOW'S YOUR BUDGET?

We are at the half-way point in our denominational fiscal year. One half our budgets, as of December 1, ought to be in the hands of the respective budget treasurer. There is need, particularly at this time of year, that we do our best to support the various denominational enterprises. Each Board and Department needs a regular and a systematic income in order to operate. We must guard against any tendency to get "out of balance" in our giving. To give all to one budget, and none to the others, is neither healthy nor right.

The special call in this issue for Foreign Missions should receive our first attention. Let's check our budget here and see where we stand. But the need is greater than one budget alone. Each area of our work is facing critical obligations and there needs to be a budget-wide support that will bring all churches up to date as soon as possible.

The budget should not be a burden, but a blessing. For the budget is our opportunity, as individual Churches, to invest in the total program of our Church. This is a precious privilege which enables us to be partners

in the greater cause of winning men to Christ around the world.

Can we not set a record this year by every Church paying its budget in full? Let's try it!

A FAITHFUL PASTOR

Doctor Conant tells of a pastor who, passing a big department store, felt a sudden impulse to go in and talk to the proprietor on the subject of his salvation. Finding him, he said: "Mr. T., I've talked beds and carpets and bookcases with you, but I've never talked my business with you. Would you give me a few minutes to do so?" Being led to the private office, the minister took out his New Testament and showed passage after passage which brought before that businessman his duty to accept Jesus Christ. Finally the tears began to roll down his cheeks, and he said to the pastor, "I'm seventy years of age. I was born in this city, and more than a hundred ministers and more than five hundred church officers have known me as you have, to do business with; but in all those years you are the only man who ever spoke to me about my soul."—Selected.

ANNOUNCING

SECOND ANNUAL DENOMINATIONAL DOLLAR DAY

FOR
DEBT REDUCTION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- \$1200. raised last year. It should be \$2500. this year.
- Thanks to good financing by our treasurer our \$16,000. indebtedness now stands at \$12,500.
- With 100% participation we can make another sizable decrease.

— LET'S LIGHTEN THE LOAD —

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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