

- Editorials -

Consumed By Love

Today I watched a paper boy making his daily delivery across the street at my neighbour's house. As he approached the door, he noticed a new hockey stick lying on the ground near the path to the door. For a few precious minutes papers were forgotten, and even the fact that it was collection day. With the eye and the hand of a pro he examined that stick. He made all the tests—the angle of the blade, the grain of the wood, the "feel" of the stick in his hands. It was easy to see that this boy knew his hockey. Finally throwing the stick to one side, he delivered his paper, only to return again to the stick and run it through a second series of tests. This time he ended his examination with a quick flick of the stick, sending a small piece of ice bouncing down the street. He left the scene with a long nostalgic look, realizing sadly that it was April and not November.

Consumed! Yes, and not only this paper boy who loved his hockey. Something consumes us all. Some are consumed by lust for power and selfish achievement; others are consumed by desire for men's applause and the world's wealth; still others are consumed by pride, hate, prejudice, and fear.

What is it that consumes us? This question is critical, for its answer tells our character as well as our worth to the Kingdom of God. Too many are consumed by that which cannot issue in the salvation of other souls or contribute to the building of holy life and character. Too few are consumed by that which is spiritually productive.

One passion consumed the Son of God. That passion was MEN. It was that passion that called Him into our world, that guided His earthly ministry, that led him to the Cross, that still governs His role at the right hand of God. Christ's passion is our plea. Without it, we are doomed—hopelessly, irreparably.

Let us, too, be consumed by love for men. May all sham and pretense disappear and may the Holy Fire of the Divine Altar burn hot in our hearts.

Refining Fire, go thro' my heart;  
Illuminate my soul;  
Scatter Thy life thro' every part,  
And sanctify the whole.

Watching Your Step

by E. P. Ashcraft

When it comes to religious experience, God does not deal in generalities. Jesus said that we are either for Him or against Him (Matt. 12:30). And the way is made clear to us: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Walking with God goes far beyond a profession of faith. To pose as Christians and even be classed as such by friends and neighbors, does not constitute a sure passport to heaven.

Lincoln once asked some friends how many legs a sheep would have if you called its tail a leg. "Five," was the answer, "Not at all," said Lincoln; "calling the tail a leg doesn't make it one." Jesus implied that His followers were fishers of men. Are you in step with Him?

Our last trip to China was taken on a freighter in company with John Schlosser. One morning the captain invited us to the bridge to watch him "shoot the sun"—a routine practice to determine a ship's exact location. With his

sextant, the sun's altitude above the horizon was taken, and then, with the assistance of time and logarithmic tables, the computation was made. Three shots were taken, computed, and the average was used as the desired result.

To the skipper's consternation, he found that we were sixty miles off course. This was due to a slight error made the day before by an apprentice, and which the captain had not checked. Correction was made immediately, and the gyroscope given the proper adjustment. No sailor is willing to navigate the high seas knowing that his ship is sixty miles off the right track.

But there are many professing Christians sailing life's spiritual seas who are without definite knowledge of their own standing with God. Months and perhaps years pass by without definite witness of the Spirit as to the soul's condition. No attempt is made to secure a fresh glimpse of the Son of Righteousness; to sense the warmth of His presence and to hear His voice of approval that breathes strength and courage into the soul.

Peter admonishes us to make our calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10). Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, "This one thing I do." Keeping in close fellowship with his Lord was the secret of his final triumphant declaration: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Are you watching your step?

—The Free Methodist

QUOTES

God deserves more than skimmed milk from the cream of your earnings.—Sel.

★ ★ ★ ★

"You are not responsible for what people think about you, but for what you give them reason to think."

★ ★ ★ ★

"The Gospel moves with slow and timid pace when the saints are not at their prayers early and late."

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