

THE CHRISTIAN.

"FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD."—Paul.

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APOSTOLIC PRECEDENT.

BY E. C. FORD.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."—1 Peter iv. 11.

What a world of trouble and heart-burnings would be saved if those who propose to speak in the name of the Lord, would heed those words of the Apostle, or what is of the same import, the words of Paul to Timothy: "Preach the Word." And pray, what else would men preach? In the great commission, our Lord has said, "Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Here the preacher is expressly commanded to teach, or preach, just what the Lord has commanded. This command was given directly to the Apostles, and we are to learn how they understood it by what they taught and practiced while under this commission. And since they were guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit, their understanding of it, as expressed by their act, must of necessity be our understanding. (Otherwise we put our interpretation of Christ's command above that of the Apostles, who were guided by the Holy Spirit.

If all who profess to preach the gospel of Christ would follow Apostolic precedents only, it would be but a short time before the prayer of our Lord would be realized, that all who believe on Christ through the words of the Apostles, "may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me." But it is because men are wedded to the doctrines and commandments of men that the Apostolic precedents are so depreciated.

In conversation, a short time ago, with a prominent member of the Methodist church, he gave me three reasons for being a Methodist. First, he was born a Methodist; second, he was educated a Methodist; and third, he had never tried to learn anything else. Now, had this good brother, and thousands more just like him, a proper regard for the teachings and practice of the Apostles as they were guided by the Holy Spirit, he certainly would measure his present religious education and practice by Apostolic precedent.

I was asked, a few days ago, why I objected to

calling on sinners to stand up and be prayed for? I replied, Because I believe the practice misrepresented God. This, in view of the almost universal practice of to-day, I am aware is strong language; yet I believe it is true. Where in all the teachings and practice of the apostles do we find them doing anything of this kind? Just look at it for a moment. Christ is preached and the sinner is made to feel that he needs salvation. He expresses this when he comes to his feet on the invitation being given. The next step in this practice is to go to work pleading with God on behalf of this poor sinner who wants to be saved. Sometimes this is followed up night after night and even week after week, and I have known some who, after seeking all this time, to give it up because God could not be persuaded to save. True, He had been prayed earnestly to do so, but somehow He was slow to move. Now, in the name of common sense, in what light does such a practice set our blessed Lord before the people. The apostles have presented Christ to us as more willing to save than we are to be saved. They promise through Christ salvation to all who obey Him.

This practice of calling up the sinner to be prayed for reverses God's order as taught us by apostolic precedent. They exhorted men to turn to God that they might be saved. "Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God." The work of the apostles, under Christ, was and is to reconcile men to God. The practice under consideration is an effort to reconcile God to man. Hence we say we cannot favor such a practice, believing it misrepresents our kind heavenly Father and loving Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who are ever ready to have mercy on the sinner as soon as the sinner can be persuaded to bow to Christ with all his heart.

Port Williams.

BEHOLD HOW GREAT A MATTER A LITTLE FIRE KINDLETH.

I have been looking over THE CHRISTIAN, and in doing so have been made to rejoice over the small things that are going on among us. For instance, the Halifax Church Fund; also the Educational Fund, both having begun in a small way, and the results have been great and success is sure. Question, How is this? Answer, because all can contribute to these two funds, and it will not affect our pocket very much. Who among us are not able to lay by him or her at least one dollar per year for the noble work of preparing our young men for the fields that have been so long ripe unto harvest.

All that has been asked from each member for the educating of our young men for the work of an evangelist is about one dollar. And it is coming in, and every one who reads the paper, I am sure, feels glad at heart that much good has come out of this small beginning, and in time will kindle a flame that will spread over these provinces of ours as never before, and the prayers of God's people will be fully realized. Let us not despise the day of small things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth. The little spark of love in our hearts needs rekindling and fanning into a flame that will set the Gospel of Christ rolling, until the ends of the earth have been brought to Christ.

How are we to accomplish this grand work that we speak of? How; do you say. By taking an active part in the work. Christ says, Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away, and every branch that beareth fruit He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. If we want to be fruitful let us contribute to the cause of Christ. By love to Christ and love to one another and love to perishing humanity around us, we shall be known as faithful servants in the Master's vineyard. Though you have but one talent you can do something for the Master, and ever so little is acknowledged by Him.

Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth. Brethren, let us keep the fire burning until the hearts of all have become warmed up to their duty towards God and to one another, and to perishing humanity around us. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. W. J. MESSERVEY.

A WORD FROM WOODVILLE.

We are trying to work on the plan of raising in this county, five or six dollars per month for the Educational Fund. We are meeting in our Aid Society once a week. We do not accomplish as much as sisters in some other places, but we are trying and intend to do our best. I wrote to a good sister on Brier Island to collect what she could for the Educational Fund, and she sent \$8.00—this with other money (4 00) handed me making a total of \$12 00. M. E. GARZ.

N. B. AND N. S. MISSION FUND.

MARCH RECEIPTS.

The young ladies of Lord's Cove, D. I., N. B.	\$7 00
Young Peoples' M. Band, St. John, N. B.,	1 25
Clara Sprague, Vanceboro, Me.,	1 00
G. McFadden, Lubec, Me.,	50
Coburg St. Sunday School, St. John, N. B.	10 03

EDUCATIONAL FUND.

E. O. Bowers, Digby Co., N. S.,	2 00
B. H. Hughes,	1 00
L. C. Bailey,	1 00
E. Titus,	50
T. Hicks,	26
Mrs. O. Collins,	20
" C. Bailey,	50
" F. Lent,	75
" T. Titus,	25
" E. A. Payson,	29
" C. Oggins,	25
T. T. Payson,	25
S. Foot,	25
J. Pugh,	50
G. D. Campbell,	1 00
Mr. Burrill,	1 00
" Ruggles,	50
A. Friend,	10
A. Cosman,	50
A. Friend,	10
A. Friend,	10
A. S.,	70
A. Sater, Cornwallis, Hants Co.,	1 00
E. C. Eord,	1 00
Mrs. H. Murray, (collected) Milton, N. S.	4 00
A. D. M. Boyne, St. John, N. B.	25
J. Flaglor,	1 00
The young ladies of Lord's Cove, D. I., N. B.	10 00
F. K. Etherington, Cambridgeport, Mass.,	5 00
Mrs. F. K. Etherington, Cambridgeport, Mass.,	5 00
Mrs. O. M. Packard, New York,	2 00

Total, \$61 30
T. H. CAPP,
Treasurer.