

IS YOUR LIGHT DIM?

Some years ago a steamer was coming up the Fifth of Clyde on a stormy night. Careful watch was kept, and all was going well, till suddenly a dim, flickering light appeared right over her bows. In another instant the steamer went crashing into a ship which was lying at anchor. Several lives were lost, and much damage was done. What was the cause of the accident? The anchored ship had allowed her light to grow dim for want of oil. It was only neglected. This is like what many Christians do; they forget to read the Word, to meditate upon it, and to watch with prayer; therefore their light is almost out, to the injury of themselves and others.

"Ye are the light of the world." Christ's churches are golden candlesticks planted in a dark world. They are to hold forth the word of life. Oh, Christians, watch and pray, and see to it that your lamps are trimmed and burning, and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord.

SABBATH KEEPING AND BUSINESS.

The *Japan Christian Chronicle and Missionary Tidings* contains the following concerning a citizen of Colorado, who with his wife was among the passengers whose lives were lost in a recent shipwreck in the China Sea.

Nearly twenty-five years ago Mr. Chain was a student in Jacksonville, Illinois, with the Gospel ministry in view. His health failing, especially his eye-sight, compelled him to turn his attention to business pursuits. He sought the bracing climate of Colorado, and after rustication a year or more, on the open plains at the base of the Rocky Mountains, he opened a small book store in Denver.

His first Sunday in the then wild western community of Denver revealed his staunch Christian character. On Saturday night he closed his place of business, and did not open again till Monday morning. At once a committee of business men waited upon him early that Monday and remonstrated with him. They said: "Out here in this newly settled country in the west we all do business on Sunday as on any other day, and you will not succeed if you lose the best day in the week for trade. Besides we cannot afford to have such a precedent established among us."

With that quiet but very firm Christian dignity the young Mr. Chain replied: "Gentlemen, what little money we have we made by keeping God's holy Sabbath back in Illinois, and God is the same here and there, therefore, if we fail in business in Colorado by observing His holy day, we shall be willing to lose our money." Instead of failure, however, he and his partner, S. B. Hardy, who also came from the same city in Illinois, were blessed with phenomenal success.

Their noble example of Sunday closing was soon followed by others, and now the city of 150,000 population is as orderly on that day of the week as any city in America. It was simply God fulfilling His promise, in so blessing those two Christian young men, as stated in Isaiah lviii: 13, 14, and other places in His Word: "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; not doing thine own ways nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob, thy father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Their business was so richly blessed that their wholesale and retail house—known now as "The Chain and Hardy Book, Art and Stationery Company, of Denver," has become one of the largest and most influential in promoting literary and Christian culture, west of the Mississippi river. For two decades it has been the rendezvous for clergymen of all denominations, and literary people of that and adjacent States.

WORK THAT EVERY ONE CAN DO.

The following is by C. H. Yatman in the *Herald and Presbyterian*.

Don't talk louder than you live. Hypocrites are poor witnesses. The first person to help is yourself; the next is the nearest and most needy.

Help the lost sinner first; the weak Christian will get to heaven; help him afterward.

Invite the lost ones to service; do it by a kind word or letter, or any good way. Pray for them in private; speak of the meetings; praise them.

Help to make every meeting you attend a good one. If you cannot sing, move your lips in harmony with the singing. In public service be brief both with prayer and remarks.

Live for Christ in your homes. This is the great need of to-day. Wash dishes, broil steak, make beds, sell calicoes or silks, like a Christian, keep sweet, happy and hopeful.

Be a walking sermon. Don't growl with your face. If you are sick, show what grace can do. If you are in trouble, let the world see in you the peace of God.

Let love to Christ flow out from all your actions. Lead the children to Christ. Keep away from doubtful things, and thus help a weak brother. Ask God to direct you to work, and he will do it inside of forty-eight hours. Don't quit work until the soul quits the body; then begin service on the other side.

BIRTHDAY UNKNOWN.

You do not know the day perhaps when you were regenerated; it is not necessary you should. A poor, troubled woman said to me the other day, she was afraid she had not been born again, because she could not tell the day.

I asked her when her birthday was, and, curiously enough, she did not know that. "he said she was born before the Registration Act, and she had not got any record of it. "Well, I am sorry to hear that," said I, "because it proves that you are not alive." But she knew she was alive. "Oh yes, I know you are alive, because you are troubled that you do not know when you began to live. You would not be troubled about that if you were not alive."

So sometimes the very troubles that people have about not knowing when they were converted prove that they are converted.

I remember my grandfather looking for his spectacles every where and ever so long, when he had got them on all the time. Indeed, he could not have looked for them without them, his sight was so far gone. So some persons are looking for their grace by their grace. That grace that has made them anxious is the very thing they are using when they are searching for a sense of grace.

Do I not speak to many, who, whether they know the day or not, do really know they have been born again? "Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."—2 Cor. 5: 17. You do not want any proof of that, because you carry the proof in your own bosoms.—*Spurgeon*.

Holiness is not the way to Christ, but Christ is the way to holiness.—*Toplady*.