

Young People's Work

FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

COMMITTEE ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK: W. W. Coulter, Chairman; J. J. Smallman, Mrs. R. H. Cameron.

C. E. Prayer-Meeting Notes.

GEO. FOWLER.

MAY 5. The lessons of Gethsemane. Mark xiv. 32-52.

It was the midnight hour, and in the Garden of Gethsemane wrestled the Saviour of the world in prayer. Such suffering, such anguish, mortal never knew. It presents for our consideration one of the most solemn, touching scenes in the history of the world. We approach the contemplation of this Scripture with sublimest reverence and deepest humility. We seem to hear the angel say to us what the Captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua: 'Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy.'

The lessons we learn here are many and important.

1. We begin to have some conception of the price of redemption. It was not the dread of physical suffering that caused such anguish, but that he was to be made sin for us. He suffered not as a martyr, but suffered for us. His one cry of agony on the cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" was not caused by mockery of the crowd, the scourge or the hammer; but because the Father's face was turned away from Him. On Christ was laid the iniquity of us all. He must tread the wine press alone. Our hearts ought to overflow with love, our very souls be melted into tenderness, and our whole being brought into loving submission to this "Man of Sorrows."

2. We learn how to meet affliction. Go to God in prayer if the heart is heavy with sorrow; if great trouble rests upon you, go into your closet and pour out your soul in prayer.

3. Another lesson that impresses itself upon us is the secret and manner of prayer. Have (1) implicit faith in God; (2) earnestness in our petition. Luke xxii. 44 says: "And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly." (3) Whole-hearted submission to His gracious will: "Nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." Mark xiv. 36. (4) That God hears and answers our supplications. An angel came from the very Throne of Heaven and strengthened Him. Luke xxii. 43.

Other lessons we learn here are (1) the necessity of watchfulness, Mark xiv. 38; (2) the heinousness of sin, Matt. xxvi. 47-49; and (3) the folly of using carnal weapons to defend and ad-

vance the cause of our Lord, Matt. xxvi. 41-55.

MAY 12. How can we Endeavorers help our church? 1 Cor. xii. 1-27.

If your C. E. is not a potent factor in the upbuilding of the church, something is materially wrong. The question which should be uppermost is, how can we Endeavorers most efficiently help our church? One thing we must bear in mind is, "our society is not an organization independent of or separate and apart from the Church, as some seem to think and others to fear."

1. We can very materially improve the prayer meeting. This is one of the most important meetings of the church and withal most neglected. To make this better, more interesting, and more devotional, is to increase the spirituality of the church.

2. We can assist in the Sunday school. It is our duty to be always ready to help the superintendent in every way possible. As C. E.'s, we study our Bible, and the more proficient we are with God's word the better S. S. teachers and scholars and officers we make.

3. We can increase the usefulness of the church in comforting the sorrowful, in visiting the sick, helping the poor and strengthening the weak.

4. We are a help to the church by being present at all the services possible and ready and watchful to assist.

5. One thing our churches need, and in this we can be of great use, is the improvement in our singing. Let us endeavor to relegate to the past the doleful, discordant sounds, which is designated singing. To give out an invitation hymn, and have the audience singing different parts of the hymn in almost every pew is enough to distract the stoutest hearted preacher and to demoralize any congregation. Endeavorers, let us assist in having harmonious spiritual singing.

6. We can be of use to the church in rising superior to the little petty jealousies, etc., that clog the wheels of progress. Loftier conceptions of Christian living are what we require. These we acquire by close communion with our Redeemer.

7. A live church is one interested in missions. We can help to disseminate missionary intelligence, and increase the missionary zeal, and prompt to larger gifts. May 5th is our collection for home missions. Let us lead the van in working for the largest collection yet lifted in our province. Much depends upon us. Let us be worthy our responsibility. Work and pray for May 5th.

"Christian Endeavor"! This our watchword shall be.
"Christian Endeavor"! Till from service set free,
Armed with the strength of youth and purpose true,
Always and everywhere, Christ's work to do."

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