

absorbing interest of life is, notwithstanding an occasional pious word to the contrary.

Let us, who are ministers, teachers, parents, ask ourselves, are the tone, and temper, and habits of our life such as to convince the children that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, not dollars and cents, not pleasures and pastimes, not social prestige and worldly honor, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

(2) Closely connected with this relegation of religion to a secondary or last place, is the failure to give any reasonable portion of time to the study of God's Word and the work of the Church. A large proportion of our scholars do not commit to memory consecutive passages of Scripture, do not commit to memory the Shorter Catechism, do not study their lessons at home. A frequent excuse given by both scholars and parents, is that the lessons for day school are so many and so hard that the children have not time to prepare their lessons for Sunday School. Most children spend more time preparing for each of the five school days, than they give during the whole week to the Sunday School lesson. Even Christian parents are, as a rule, more careful to keep the children at their lessons for the week-day teacher, than to see that they are prepared for the Sunday class.

The same unwillingness to give time and thought, anything like serious study, is seen in the slowness of Young People's Societies to take up the General Assembly's Plan of Study, or any other plan involving study.

There is great need to impress the truth that nothing of value can be obtained without effort, that what costs us nothing is worth nothing for the purposes of character. God's Word can only be made our own by study and constant thought. A Sunday School class or a Christian Endeavor meeting, or any other service for which no one has prepared by honest study or long continued meditation and prayer, is not likely to be interesting, and cannot be of much value. Enthusiasm to be lasting must be based on personal knowledge. It is they who "know" their God, who "do exploits."

It is the "wise" who "turn many to righteousness," and "shine as the stars for ever and ever."

(3) Once more, I believe we have failed with the young because in matters of religion we have not sufficiently appealed to their imagination. Through lack of right teaching—through lack of study and adequate knowledge, the glorious person of Christ and the coming of His kingdom have not appealed to the youthful imagination, and only as the imagination is awakened can enthusiasm be kindled.

The actual is seldom sufficient to arouse the highest effort. It is the ideal—what ought to be, what may be, what is yet to be, that kindles the souls of men to never-ceasing effort.

Our Queen and what she represents, our flag and what it is to wave over, our Empire and what it is yet to be, a far-off land and visions of glorious conquest in face of dangers and death—these things have appealed to the imagination of our young men, and they have rallied to uphold the honor and prestige of their country, even though it be at the cost of life. And shall that wondrous life once lived by the God-man on earth, His passion and cross, in which earth's tragedy culminated and earth's healing began, His resurrection and ascension in the clouds of heaven, the coming and glory of the latter-day kingdom, have no power to kindle the imagination and command the life devotion of our youth?

A great need of to-day is power on the part of parents, teachers, ministers, so to present the character and kingdom of Christ, the triumphs of the cross, the possibilities of the race under the reign of Jesus, the coming of the kingdom to one's own country in the new century, the vision of a city of God from which all that defileth and maketh a lie has been driven out, that imagination will be aroused, ambition awakened, and tenacity of purpose in Christian effort secured.

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It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing. Gal 4: 18.