

EVANGELIST HONEYWELL ON CONSISTENCY

Stirring Appeal to Christians to Live Clean, Good Consistent Lives.

Church members and professing Christians with any secret sin in their lives are hampering the work of the church, and in his fine address he urged that those people to make right with those they wronged and with God.

It has been well said that there are only a few peaks in the mountain range that attract the eye and rivet the attention. Even the proud Alps can boast of but three notable summits. Mt. Blanc, Mt. Rose and the Matterhorn. Japan has but one notable height—the Fujiyama. The world famous pinnacles can be enumerated in a single breath—all else is tame.

What the towering summit is to the mountain range the great crisis is to the human life. Men attract our attention only when in some respect they tower above their fellows. Only at rare intervals do we find such men and when we do find them, they are towering at only one or two points. At all others they are at a dead level.

Demosthenes was only an orator. Socrates simply a philosopher. Archimedes a mathematician. But Demosthenes is mostly remembered for his oration on the crown. Socrates for his sublime death and Archimedes for his discovery of the law of specific gravity. Only one crisis, but a single towering summit.

First Great Crisis.

Our text refers to the first great crisis in the life of Paul. Though we catch a glimpse of him at the stoning of Stephen, he here first merges into full view. We see his heated brow, we hear his willing cry, and witness his tremendous agony. It was in the profoundest sense a conversion. It was more than an intellectual operation. It was a purification and resurrection combined. Yes, it was an ascension, for Paul arose to walk in newness of life, in a new world, with new environments and associations. It was an instantaneous conversion—though having its antecedents that we are likely to overlook. The work began with the stoning of Stephen.

The angelic countenance of that first martyr, his glorious prayer, his unearthly gentleness and compassion, his triumphant testimony, made a profound impression upon the observing mind and susceptible heart of the apostle.

"Lay not this to thy charge," cried Stephen, but he felt that he was measurably superior to all his persecutors.

"Lord Jesus receive my spirit," and his last soul enters the Holy of Holies. There he covered with blood and mangled. Stephen's body had all the grace of a king's son and his face all the sweetness and beauty of an angel.

Paul was smitten to the heart. His preaching of the Holy Ghost and to own conscience began to feel their utter condemnation.

Gamaliel's Advice.

Gamaliel's advice is now remembered. "Let these men alone, if their work be of men it will come to naught, but if it be of God you cannot overthrow it." In spite of everything, this new faith was spreading and its disciples rapidly multiplying. Light begins to stream into the souls. His false and artificial religion begins to tumble. He is disheartened with himself; then he is ashamed. With misgiving and inner disgust he starts to Demas on another persecution expedition. But he must needs lash himself into a fury in order to keep up appearances. Besides he has a reputation of bigotry and insane zeal and pride urge him to maintain it.

Yet even anon he seems to see the face of Stephen and hear his voice murmuring: "Lay not this to thy charge." "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." "Lord Jesus receive my spirit."

At last unable to hold out any longer, in his heart he cries out: "Light! Light! Oh that I were like Stephen! Heaven help me!" Then had God's time come. Quicker than lightning's flash, the glory of the Lord swallowed him up. Smitten, blinded, overwhelmed he cries to the one of whom he had been thinking. "Lord what wilt thou bring this prayer of Paul to you at this stage of the meetings in order that you may be led to offer it with the same earnest purpose of heart."

Just as Likely.

You might as well expect this church to fly, you might as well expect a mummy to speak, you might as well expect this pulpit over which I am talking to preach to you, you might as well expect the devil to love holy water, you might as well expect an Irishman to hate whiskey, you might as well expect a Scotchman to

see a joke, you might as well expect to pull a cat by the tail backwards over the carpet as to expect a revival in Belleville, unless it begins in the house of God. I tell you, that the fellow of the street market to be round up by some old worldly hypocrite den official or godless hypocrite in the church.

The most successful preachers against Christians are the inconsistent professors of religion. The saddest thing is that professing Christians should by their unchristian lives supply arguments to unbelievers. There are a great many people in the church today who do not know the A. B. C. about real heart religion. A man is not a Christian because he goes to church any more than he is a horse when he goes to a stable or an automobile when he goes to a garage. I have learned by experience that it is an utter waste of time to try to preach to sinners until the church is aroused and gets right with God.

Recently I have been reading the history of the earthly church. Then the power of God was manifested and men and women were pricked to the heart and scores and hundreds cried to God for mercy. Now we are powerless and we are dead.

Just a Nubbin.

Peter preached one sermon and 3,000 souls were converted. Now it takes 3,000 sermons to convert one little dried up nubbin of a Christian. Who is to blame? Wherein does the fault lie? It is not with this glorious gospel. We have the same blessed gospel to preach, and it is still mighty to save. We are told that conditions have changed and that methods used and the style of sermon preached in these early days of revival power would not win today. I have a higher critic friend near Chicago who claims to be a specialist upon modern evangelism and at conventions and district rallies he is delivering his addresses upon the new evangelism needed today. And yet I have known him to be pastor of one church for four years without a single conversion under his new evangelism.

While he has been praying to see 11,000 souls born into the kingdom during the past eight months through the old-fashioned preaching of this old time gospel with Holy Spirit power.

Preach your sermons if you choose upon higher criticism, sociology, astronomy and the present topics of the day, but I am not ashamed of this old time gospel. It is still the power of God unto salvation.

Not God's Fault.

The fault is not with God. He is still omnipotent. He is still almighty. He is still the saviour of men and His blood is still able to cleanse from the least and last remains of sin.

It is not with the Holy Spirit. This is His disposition. He is still abroad in the world to convict men of sin and righteousness and judgment as in the days of yore.

Wherein then does the difficulty lie? Who is to blame? You are to blame, I am to blame. Isaiah said to Israel: "The Lord's hand is not shortened that He cannot save, neither is His ear heavy that He cannot hear, but your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear."

David says: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Many Christians are praying for power and all the time remaining powerless, and wondering what the matter is, when God simply has his eyes closed against their cries because of the unclean hearts and lives. Sin is harbored there.

My friends, this is the secret of the failure of our efforts to lead souls to Christ.

Israel's Experience.

Look at Israel. They had just won a great victory at the fall of Jericho. God had told them not to take any of the treasures of Jericho and so far as been violated. Shortly after his victory God sent Joshua and his men to capture Ai. They had no anticipation of anything but victory. But to their astonishment they were totally defeated. Joshua returned and fell down and began to complain. Then God came to him saying: "Israel hath sinned." Joshua was ignorant of it, but God was not.

Your pastor, your wife, your church, your community may be ignorant of it, but God was not. God knows it. Finally Achan confessed his sin. Now the host of God is ready for service. Another attempt to conquer Ai and victory perches upon their banner.

Brother, would you have power with God? Look deep down into your heart. Are you clinging to sin? One sin, a little sin, the smallest sin? Are you unwilling to surrender it? Then quit your praying, for the Almighty will not hear you.

Would the churches and Christian people interested in this work have power, such power as God himself is ready to give? Then cleanse your membership and your methods. Are you clinging to unworthy men and women, afraid perhaps for social or financial reasons to deal with them fearlessly in the sight of God? Then nail a black cross over your church door and let your pastor go to plow. Are you unwilling to listen to the voice of God and of the Holy Spirit? So you need not expect to get the ear of God, and without the ear of

God you are powerless. The Spirit is very sensitive. He will not work in an unclean heart. All of us want power. I suppose there is not a church or an individual in the world that would not like more power. The trouble is, we are not willing to pay the price. There is inward sin, sin harbored in the heart which you are not willing to confess and forsake.

Some time ago the lights all went out in Boston. There was great curiosity to know the cause. Faithful linemen began to investigate and to their astonishment found that the main line going out from the power house had rubbed against a nail and divided the current. And so with you here. Sin is one force or another has come in between you and God and divided the current of spiritual power.

In New York some time ago, a man was mysteriously paralyzed. It came on him gradually. He slowly realized when it began. Upon investigation the skilled surgeons found a spicule of bone pressing upon certain nerve centers. It was no larger than a match head, and yet sufficient to render him powerless. So it is again, I say our churches and individuals are practically powerless. We have not yet touched the hem of the garment of the Holy Spirit. And yet we wonder what is the matter. Why do we get down to the tap-root? There you will find the trouble. It is sin. It may be a secret sin. It may appear to you a small sin, but it has shorn us of our spiritual power, it has robbed us of our evangelistic spirit. Sin, sin.

Let us this first night look into our hearts and see how we stand before God. It will take more than a mere trifling investigation. It will take quiet deliberate searching with none but the Holy Ghost for our company. "Search me O God and try me and see if there be any wickedness in me, and try me and see." was not only David's prayer but should be ours.

It is wonderful how we see ourselves when the search-light of the Holy Spirit shines upon our hearts. Not long ago some men on a barge in Chesapeake bay were examining the cable. They had an instrument which they let down to the bottom. It was a glass globe, and in it were electric wires that were attached to the battery on the barge.

When it was lowered through the water, the bottom of the barge was lit up for some distance and they were enabled to see any obstructions.

This is a good illustration of the workings of the Holy Spirit. The word of the Lord, hid in our hearts and the cord of faith attached to heaven, we may touch the button of prayer and bring down the search-light of the Spirit, which shining through the truth will reveal ourselves as in no other way we could see ourselves. It may be a sin of prejudice. I knew of a woman who was kept from spiritual power for years because she had a prejudice against her own kind. It may be a sin of selfishness. Perhaps we think we are giving to the Lord as much as he requires, and we tell that to our friends and we are happy to think that we are doing the right thing by others, but money so blinds our sense of right that we may be deceived.

I knew a stinky old skin-dink on an Illinois town who was worth over \$100,000 and had neither chick or child to leave to. He was a member of the M.E. church and made the loudest profession of sanctification. And yet that old skin-dink never had a poor widow woman with a large family to do their washing for 50c a week. One day she did not finish the washing by noon. He invited her to remain for dinner. He had her pay that poor, hard-working woman for her work, he charged her up 25c for her dinner. I tell you, if there is one spot hotter in hell than another you will find that old fellow cracking brimstone there.

It may be a sin of unrepentance. Christ said: "If ye forgive not man their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you." Do you hold spite or malice against anyone? Is there one person to whom you would not cheerfully speak? Do you cherish an unforgiving spirit towards anyone? If so, should you do tonight with any feeling you would wake up in hell of this old Bible is not worth the paper it is printed on.

I know nothing about your private life or your mode of living. You are all strangers to me and I have become acquainted with any good gossiping sister here yet, but if there is any friction existing between professing Christians on this ground or between members of churches interested in the revival campaign, and you are not willing to make wrongs right and effect a reconciliation, we might as well shut up shop for heavenly blessing will not fall upon you. A friend of mine was holding a revival meeting in an Iowa town. He labored hard and preached faithfully for three weeks but not a sign of a move. He called the pastor and officials together and stated to them that he was going to leave. Said he: "Something is wrong here and you are refusing to make it right. They begged him to remain another week. That they knew the difficulty and would try to make it right.

A prominent doctor and the mayor of the city had some trouble in a business transaction and they came to work. They were both official members in the same church, and yet refused to effect a reconciliation. This stood like a mighty dam across the meeting and no Christian men waited upon them from the Christian men together the matter was settled in a Christian manner. The next evening that doctor and mayor took a seat in the front of the church. It went like an electric shock through that audience.

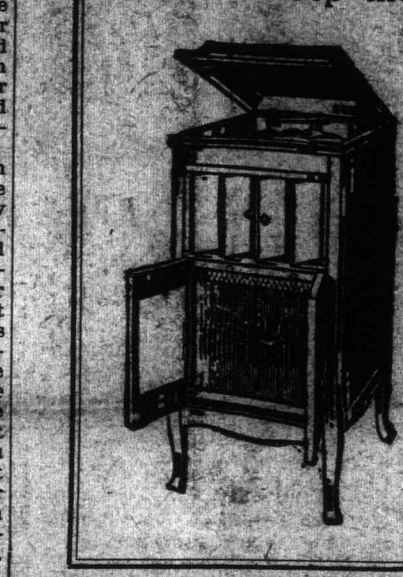
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The Tie That Binds

THE influence of music in the home cannot be overestimated. Think! Wouldn't every member of the family insist on being home if Alice Neilson was going to sing in your parlor next Wednesday? The most important event you can think of wouldn't keep them away.



Alice Neilson will visit your home—not once, but every evening on your Columbia. She, or some other famous singer, will sing your favorite songs, but that isn't all. Charlie may be fond of Creator's Band. Mary may have a friend in France and long for military music. Little Billie would just love "Little Red Riding Hood." You can please them all.

The long winter evenings have no dread for the family which owns a COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA. In the past possibly the lack of entertainment at home has been a source of worry to you. The Columbia has solved many a father's problem, as it will for you. Tomorrow you will be passing our store—drop in and ask for Mr. Goodsell who will show you the different styles and give a thorough demonstration of the Columbia Grafonola. Come in any time.

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Looking for Wife for British Heir

Papers Discuss Matrimonial Future of Prince of Wales—American Bride.

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"The fact is," says the Express, "that there is a keen desire that the Prince shall be allowed to choose for himself a British wife, if not an American. His marriage with a British bride would be exceedingly popular. If he should choose an American bride the enthusiasm on both sides of the Atlantic would be unbounded and the prospect would arouse little enthusiasm."

"There is nothing whatever to prevent King George giving his consent to the marriage of the Prince of Wales to anybody who is not a Roman Catholic," it adds. The other paper mentioning the subject is the Daily Chronicle, which sees special interest in the forthcoming visit of the King and Queen of Rumania to London in view of the fact that their beautiful eldest daughter, Princess Elizabeth, has been frequently mentioned as an eligible bride for the Prince of Wales. It points out that the Queen of Rumania is an English princess and is related by love to England and English ways, and it applauds the courtly stand she took when the Germans over-run Rumania.

But perhaps someone here says: "Or, but I am not taking anybody's money." Good! I am glad of that. But what about your debts?

One day a very rich business man about taking a stand for God. He replied: "I am not ready yet to take such a long step down." He said: "Some of the worst dead beats in this town are members in your church and know how to say amen in prayer meetings, and it's bad enough he said to meet them in a business way without having to associate with them in the church."

I tell you, God is a mighty good bookkeeper. You will clean up your slate or you will give an account at the bar of God.

There are many other things which could be mentioned in this connection. Perhaps I have not touched your case. But you know it. God knows it. Will you not bow your heads and shut your eyes and say: "Oh Spirit of the living God, come and put your finger on the plague spot in my life. Reveal it to me just now and then give me grace to confess it and power to forsake it."

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