

CHURCH PRAYER MEETING.

A Right Defiance.

A RIGHT DEFIANCE.—PS. XI. 1.—Think of the circumstances of this right defiance. Study the state of affairs. (1 Sam. xviii. 12-16, xix. 1.) Saul wanted them to slay David secretly. Then faint-hearted friends come to David advising him. They tell him to flee. They say, "For the foundations—the very substructions of the government—are destroyed; what hath the righteous wrought?" That is, what is the use of standing sturdily to duty and attempting anything amid plotting assassinations? Therefore flee.

But David makes answer, "Nay, I may not flee; not yet, at any event, has the time for flight arrived; I am in a position of trust; the thing for me to do is steadily to keep at my duty; and though all else fails, though the jealousy of the king maddens at me, and his emissaries plot against me, and in secret ways javelins are menacing me, I will be faithful and steady still." And so David strikes the brave note of a right defiance, "In the Lord put I my trust; how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?"

Well, are David's circumstances and his need of a right defiance altogether so unlike the circumstances and need of men in our own day?

Frequently God's way leads through dangers—e.g., Daniel; the three Hebrews; Paul at Lystra. Dangers breed scares, and scares counsel—Flee as a bird to your mountain.

Sometimes what looks like necessity says, Flee from the right—e.g., I knew a man, with family dependent, who was without work and means, who could any moment get a lucrative position in the liquor business. Constantly his necessity urged, Flee from your notions of the right and take this position, tempting. Thank God, he did not; and in time another position opened.

Think of some of the reasons for such defiance which this brave Psalm sings of.

We should have such right defiance because the Lord controls. See what we have here—the Lord personal; the Lord holy; the Lord on His throne; and throne means control.

Also, according to the teaching of this brave Psalm, we ought to have such right defiance because the Lord knows. "His eyes behold." Our standing for the right is not unnoticed by the Lord.

We should have such right defiance because the Lord discriminates (v. 4). "His eyelids try the children of men." The eyelids are contracted when we wish to examine an object closely. God distinguishes.

We should have such right defiance because the Lord approves the righteous. The Lord trieth the righteous—that is, proves and approves him.

We should have such right defiance because the Lord disapproves the wicked (v. 5). "But the wicked and him that loveth violence His soul hateth."

Some practical suggestions.—Therefore trust. Do you remember Christian and Hopeful in Despair Castle. "Now a little before it was day, good Christian, as one half amazed, broke out in this passionate speech, 'What a fool,' quoth he, 'am I thus to lie in a stinking dungeon, when I may as well walk at liberty. I have a key in my bosom called Promise, that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle.' Then said Hopeful, 'That's good news, good brother, pluck it out of thy bosom and try.' Then Christian pulled it out of his bosom and began to try at the dungeon door, whose bolt gave back, and the door flew open with ease, and Christian and Hopeful both came out."

Therefore keep right. Thus did David. He was scrupulous as to his relations Godward, manward.

Therefore keep at duty. Thus also David did.

And so be sure all will come right at the end; and meantime the discipline will be invaluable. Thus also was it with David.

A right defiance against a mean and tempting wrong is always the wisest and the safest course.

Christian Endeavour.

Daily Readings.

First Day—"In whatsoever state."—Phil. 4: 10-19.

Second Day—Contentment and gratitude—Deut. 8: 6-20.

Third Day—Our home is not here.—Heb. 13: 5, 6, 14-16, 20, 21.

Fourth Day—Envy of power.—Acts 13: 44-52.

Fifth Day—Envy of possessions.—1 Kings 21: 1-16.

Sixth Day—Envy's greatest crime.—Matt. 27: 11-18.

Seventh Day—Envy and covetousness; how to conquer them.—1 John 2: 1-11, 15-17.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, APRIL 8.—"Envy and Covetousness: How to Conquer Them," 1 Jno. ii, 1-11, 15-17. The source of envy and covetousness, Satan's antidotes to happiness and peace, is discontent; dissatisfaction with self and circumstances. It is a wholesome thing sometimes to be thus dissatisfied, but only when betterment is looked for in the right direction. Too often the sole result is an envying of those who are better off, and a coveting of the better things they enjoy. Such feelings embitter the life, exile peace, and debase self respect. What is the cure? Destroy the source. Drive out discontent. Be satisfied with Christ, then you will be able to look upon the better circumstances of those around you, and congratulate them on their successes in all sincerity, because you feel that in the possession of Christ you have more than a sufficiency for all your needs.

Now none but Christ can satisfy,
None other name for me!
There's love, and life, and lasting joy,
Lord Jesus, found in "—ee

REFERENCE PASSAGES:—Envy; Pro. xvi, 30, xxiii, 17. Rom. xiii, 13. 1 Cor. xiii, 4. Gal. v, 19-26. 1 Tim. vi, 4. Jas. iii, 14, 16, v, 9. Covetousness; Ex. xx, 17. Psal. x, 3, xxxvii, 16, xlix, 11-18. Jer. vi, 13. Matt. xiii, 22. Mark vii, 21. Luke xii, 15-34. Eph. v, 3-5. Col. iii, 1-6. Heb. xiii, 5. Jas. v, 1-3.

BRIEFLY PUT:—Envy may enter even Gospel preaching, Phi. i, 15. Some coveting is commendable, 1 Cor. xii, 31. Content cannot come from change of environment; it must come from change of heart, Psal. xvii, 15.

Means and Methods.

The Prayer Meeting Committee can make good use of the topic thoughts given weekly in the REVIEW under the heading "Briefly Put," by cutting them out and handing them a week before the meeting to some of their silent members, requesting them to make them the basis of brief comment at the coming service.

One way of getting the mere verse readers to say something is to ask them questions concerning the verses they read.

A Sunshine Committee in an Australian Society bought an invalid's chair which it loans to the sick. It was first used by an old gentleman who had not been out for six years.

Two cents a week for missions does not sound much does it? Yet if every Endeavorer were to give that much it would mean \$1,792,960 a year! Begin with yourself at once, and pledge all the other members you can.

The Canadian head-quarters at the coming Cleveland Convention will be in the Dunham Avenue Disciple Church

Nothing is easier than to complain, yes in almost every community are to be found some who have a conspicuous genius for complaining. We have heard of no one, however, who would take the prize over a woman whose pastor asked after her health, to which she replied dolefully, "I feel very well, but I always feel bad when I feel well because I know I'm going to feel worse afterwards."

No one will ever shine in conversation who thinks of saying fine things; to please, one must say many things indifferent, and many very bad.