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A Loving Word for 1905



WHEN the late Marquis of Salisbury was Lord Robert Cecil he went to his rector in London and said, "I am a very busy man, but I shall be glad to give two afternoons in the week to parish work, and if you desire it, become a Sunday School teacher."

When shall it come to our Church that the Epworth Leaguers and Church officials will go to the pastor and offer their services for the enlargement of Christ's Kingdom in the community?

There are two classes of workers upon whom the pastor should be able to depend for hearty co-operation—the League and the Sunday School teachers.

The richest enjoyment of the Christian life is in helpful service. The year 1905 is at hand. What shall its record be? Shall it be common-place in relation to the Church as, alas, too many years in the past have been? Or shall it be extraordinary in communion with God in earnest Bible study, and in direct work of soul-winning?

Much depends upon the spirit in which we cross the boundary from the old to the new year and enter upon the hallowed service of true and beautiful Christian discipleship.

The Church is looking with loving sympathy upon the organized young manhood and womanhood as found in the Epworth League. None can win those about the same age as well as consecrated young people. To do this great work there must be personal consistency, coupled with intelligent and persuasive effort to draw our unsaved friends to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

The greatest need of to-day's Methodism is a mighty revival of the work of God in pulpit and pew, in Sunday School and Epworth League. Let our prayer be, "Wilt Thou not revive us again that Thy people may rejoice in Thee," or that of the 51st Psalm, "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John P. Briggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail.