

alms is a Martha-like offering unless vitalized by the life spark of the inner life. Our Master's plan for the world, His other children, the part He wishes us to play—let us take time this season to sit humbly at His feet and learn of these, that we may pray and work and give and love the better.

### BIBLE READING

Bible Reading by Mrs. S. G. Pinnock, given at the September Mission Circle meeting of the Park Road Baptist Church, Toronto.

Mrs. Pinnock and her husband, Rev. S. G. Pinnock, were missionaries in Africa for years, under the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Colossians 1:18.

"That in all things He might have the pre-eminence." That is, become Himself One who holds the first place.

I was asked to bring you a motto to-day, and this is the one that came to me first. It is "Jesus Christ Himself" that I wish to emphasize, Jesus himself having the right place in us, in our love, and in our activities.

In considering the work that lies before us here, in our new church buildings, I have been asking myself, Is love for Jesus Christ going to have first place? Is love for Him going to prompt all our service? Is He to be pre-eminent?

As we strive to do our best in the Circle or in the Dorcas, we need to put and keep Him first. We like to think of the work we are endeavoring to do for Him and are grateful for any part we may be called upon to do. But we need to remind ourselves constantly that not for the sake of a good name nor for self-gratification, but for His dear sake, that He may be glorified.

If love to our Lord, moves us to personal service we shall glorify Him in doing it. It is not enough to pay our subscriptions and allow others to do the work. We shall do that and far more than that if we keep before us in loving remembrance that Jesus gave Himself for us.

Jesus Himself demands that you and I be consecrated to His praise.

Personal service is due a personal Christ who personally loved and personally died for us. If nothing else will move us to fresh zeal in His cause, when He himself appears to us, we shall by the Divine Spirit be warmed up to work for Him more fervently. We shall be where we can say anything and everything for Jesus. He expounded the Scriptures to His disciples concerning Himself. He showed Himself to them. And will He not do as much for us His followers if we keep near enough and study Him?

He is the object of our love. Also the object of our faith. When we study the results of our faith, in ourselves, are we not dissatisfied? We need to turn our eyes from self and look to Jesus Christ Himself.

I've been thinking more of my own faith in prayer, lately, and trying to find out how and where I ask amiss, when the answers do not come. I see now that my desires are usually set first and foremost upon the person or object prayed for, rather than on Jesus Christ Himself, and it is hard to get away from that.

I see that if I live with my thoughts directed towards persons, even though my motive may be pure on their behalf, I shall have less influence on them than I shall have if my motives are Godward, and my aim that He may be glorified.

So in all our activities in these our new buildings, whether in the Circle or the sewing room, the prayer meeting or the social, the choir or the primary room, let us strive to keep in mind Jesus Christ Himself, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence.

The writing of this epistle was called forth by a serious danger that threatened the faith of the Colossian church. The danger arose from a type of false teaching essentially Jewish in character. It emphasized the importance of sacred seasons, the Sabbath, the new moon, the feast day, and laid down certain restrictions as to meats and drinks and also gave an important place to the tradition of men.

By its worship of the angels it degraded Christ from His true position as the Head of the body. This doctrine of angels was current in Judaism in Paul's time. Each nation had its angel who guided its destiny and