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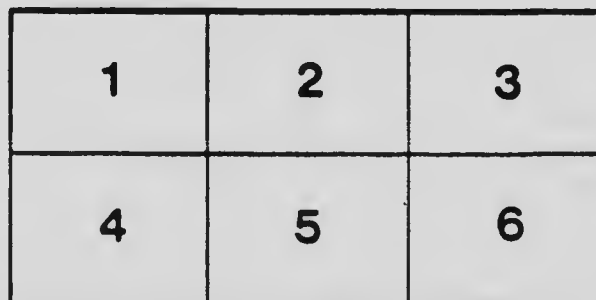
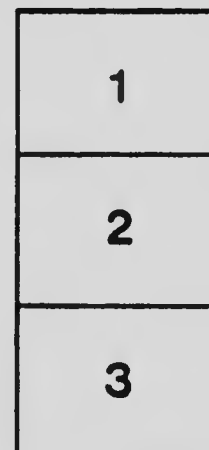
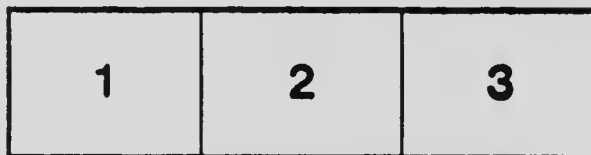
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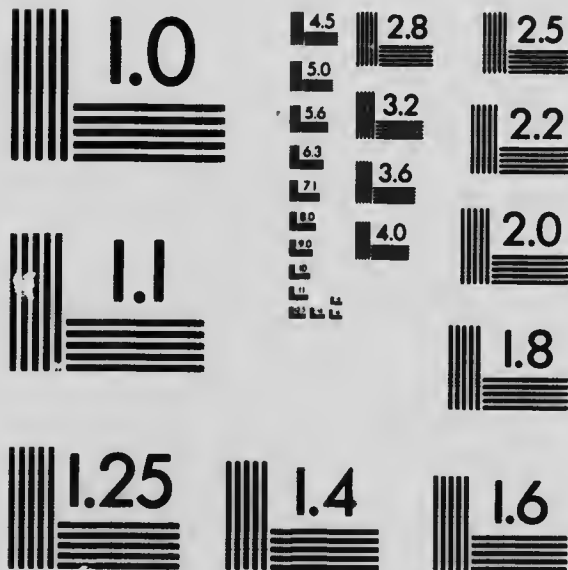
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THE TRUST

A New Year's Message

TO

YOUNG MEN and
YOUNG WOMEN

By

REV. ALEX. ESLER

Cooke's Church, Toronto,
1907

THE TRUST.

II Tim. 1. 14.

Paul the aged, counsels Timothy the youth, saying "That Good Thing which was committed unto thee, Keep by the Holy Ghost." Son Timothy, "I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the GIFT OF GOD that is in thee." That good thing "the gift of God" stir thou up and keep by the Holy Ghost. It is refreshing to know that this youth did not slur his aged counsellor as an "old fogey out of date," but that he took the old man's advice and the centuries have shown that Timothy did wisely. Paul's advice is good for you, is good for me at the beginning of the year. The man who refused it years ago wailed out when it was too late !

"Oh, could I go back to the fork of the road,
Back over the long miles I have carried the
load ;
Back to the place where I had to decide,
By this sign or that sign my footsteps to
guide."

“Back to the sorrow, back to the care,
Back to the place where the future was fair ;
Oh! were I there now, decision to make,
My Father in Heaven, which road would I
take?”

“Oh! could I go back to the fork of the road
With the wisdom I've gathered in bearing
this load,
A different decision, Dear God, would I make,
And the path of the righteous my footsteps
should take.”

“The broad road of pleasure no glory hath won,
It hath brought me to anguish—my whole
life undone ;
And now at the end, oh, 'tis wretched and drear !
My heart is nigh breaking I tremble with
fear.

“The road is so tangled with brier and thorn,
To find the way back I'm ever o'erworn ;
Deep sunk in despair I am 'wildered and lost,
Of choosing the wrong road, how bitter the
cost!”

“If God in His Mercy would show me the way
To return, to return to the light of Youth's
Day,
My road I would choose by the sign of the
Word—
With Jesus My Leader, My Way, and My
Lord.”

Paul looked at Timothy as a Steward to whose keeping had been committed "that good thing which was "the Gift of God" which he was to stir up for it would by and by be required of Him. We are all stewards and holders of trusts which will be required of us. "It is required of a steward that he be found faithful."

What was Timothy's trust? He had a godly mother and grandmother who filled his young mind with Scripture truth which proved to be substantial capital in his life's work. I thought the other day when God gave us another baby boy, what a sacred trust parents have in the bringing up of children for God. Their eternal destiny is made very largely by the parents and the trust will some day be required, as the wise man puts it "bring up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

"Mother, Father, watch the little feet
Climbing o'er the garden wall,
Bounding thro' the busy streets,
Ranging cellar, shed and hall!

Never count the moments lost,
Never mind the time its costs ;
Little feet will go astray—
Mother, Father, watch them while you may.

Parents need to remember that their trust as parents is God-given and in due time they will be called to account for their stewardship. Sons and daughters who have had godly parents have the best dowery under the sun for a useful life, but every Timothy will be called to account for the use he has made of those early lessons.

What was Timothy's trust? He had Health and Strength and Youth. Paul said, Keep Youth and Strength and Health by the Holy Ghost, meaning that the prime of life should be given to God to help his fellowmen, not in vain pleasure and selfish seeking. Young friend, this is good advice for you at the beginning of 1907. Do not spend all your evenings in pleasure nor all your days in money-making. Do not pour out your life in the world. Let God have your life at its best. "What!" you say, "no time for play?" Yes, yes, take some time for manly sport and "provide for a rainy day," but, remember, God first. It does not pay to give the world one's manhood. Lord Byron, the great genius and poet, who had entrance into every society, and who gratified every wicked passion of his nature to the full, wrote, "Without any immediate prospect of death—

“ Though gay companions o’er the bowl
Dispel awhile the sense of ill,
Though pleasure fills the maddening soul,
The heart—the heart is lonely still.
Count o’er the joys thine hours have seen,
Count o’er the days from anguish free,
And know whatever thou hast been,
’Twere nothing better not to be ”

Colonel Gardiner tells us that when living a wicked and profligate life, and when pleasure seemed to follow pleasure so that he was called “the happy rake,” he was all the while most miserable, envying his very dog and wishing to be, as the brute was, void of a conscience that could neither be bribed nor laid to sleep.

Lord Chesterfield, the famous “man of the world,” after he had tasted of all life’s pleasures wrote, “I have been as wicked and as vain as Solomon, and am now at last able to feel and attest the truth of his reflection that all is vanity and vexation of spirit. I bear my situation because I must whether I will or no. I think of nothing but killing time the best way I can now that it has become my enemy.” Young friend, keep thyself pure. It is said of the little creature, the ermine, that it will die rather than let any pollution touch its white fur. This fur is used for lining

or facing certain official garments—for example, the robes of Judges. The word ermine, therefore, is used of the Judge's office in token of the perfect rectitude and incorruptibleness which should distinguish the man who occupies the position. We say the Judge must keep his ermine unspotted, aye, and so must the Christian. This is a world of evil, but he must keep his garments white, his life pure and clean as he passes through it. He must be willing to suffer, to make any sacrifice to guard the whiteness and purity of his life. Joseph kept himself pure though he had to sacrifice his freedom to do it. The immediate result of his purity was the prison, but the ultimate end was that he became prime minister over all the land of Egypt and became the world's saviour. Young friend, keep sacred thy purity.

What was Timothy's trust? He had a work to do and one of very great responsibility, being put in charge of the church at Ephesus. But he was worthy of such a trust, he did his work well. Young friend, your work may not be of the same kind as Timothy's, but it is from the same source—God. Your work is your stewardship **FAITHFULNESS** is required. God does not say anything about **SUCCESS**, but He insists on

FAITHFULNESS. "Be thou **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH** and I will give thee a crown of life." Some think if they had such a trust as the charge of the church at Ephesus they would be faithful, but in their humble calling it is not worth while, but they only think so; they would really be no more faithful there than where they are. The Lord who knew what was in man said, "He that is faithful in the least is faithful also in much, he that is unjust or unfaithful in the least is unfaithful also in much." If you are not faithful where you are it would never do to put you to anything more important. Paul said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content," and here he did his best. If you have a lowly position be content, put your **BEST**, your very best into it. Whatever the results may be, be true to your trust. Spurgeon used to quote this doggerel to his students:—

"If I were a cobbler I'd make it my pride
The very best cobbler to be;
If I were a tinker no other beside
Could mend an old kettle like me."

This is the thought, your work is God's trust to you. It is required of a steward he be found faithful. It is said of a porter in The T.

Eaton store that some years ago at 6 o'clock he was ordered to allow NO ONE IN. Presently a lady came insisting to get in and said she was Mrs. Eaton, but the young man was firm. Nor did Mrs. Eaton get past ; her husband hearing of the incident said that is the man I need and Mr. Eaton helped the lad on to success, but whether success follows faithfulness or no, one should be faithful simply because IT IS RIGHT. "Take from him the talent" said Jesus, "and give it to Him that hath ten talents, for unto everyone that hath shall be given and he shall have abundantly." "That good thing which has been committed to thee, keep by the Holy Ghost."

What was Timothy's trust? He had a chance to help the needy, to stoop down to help Paul when he was in jail and to stoop to the help of many other needy ones in jail and out of it. A chance to help is a trust from God. Jesus set forth this truth in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The man lying on the roadside revealed the passers by. Five poor unfortunate sailors lying at the Soo with their feet cut off and one of them his hands as well, because of exposure in the wreck of the Golspie, reveal the men and women of Canada. Ah!

the helpless are everywhere. Oh! the sorrows of Africa, of China, of India, of Europe, of America. Oh! the sores of this old world crying for some good Samaritan to come with the arms of help. Opportunity! God's trust! There is opportunity everywhere and if you have not played the part of a Good Samaritan to some needy one nearby or answered the heart-rending appeals that come across the sea from heathen lands, it may be because you are a proud Levite devoid of the Spirit of the loving Saviour. There is a beautiful legend told by James Buckham of two saints :

“Saint Cassianus entered heaven's gate
And sought the throne whereon his Master
sate,
Before the Lord of life he proudly stood
With spotless robes and mien of saintlihood.

Then spake the Christ, “What sawest thou,
to-day,
My Cassianus, on thy heavenward way?”
“I saw,” he said, “a peasant in a bog,
All smeared with slime and stranded like a
log.”

“And didst thou help him?” asked the shining
One
With smile that lit His beauty like the Sun,

“Not I,” said Cassianus, “there he lay
Till some one soiled as he should pass that
way.”

“Why didst thou leave him thus?” the
Master sighed,

“My robes were white,” Saint Cassinaus cried.
Then entered heaven Saint Nicholas and came
And knelt before the throne as if in shame.

“Why stained and soiled my child?” his
Master said,

Saint Nicholas but lower bent his head.

“I saw a peasant in a bog, O Lord,
Helpless he lay but uttered not a word.
Then straightway to his aid I ran and lo!
The mire hath stained my robes that were
as snow.

I am not fit, I pray Thee let me dwell
Where unto Thee, O Lord, it seemeth well.”

“Blessed art thou, Saint Nicholas, my child!”
The Lord made answer, “Thou art not defiled
But purer, nobler, for thy gracious deed,
Thy ministry to a brother’s need.
Among my saints elect I bid thee stand —
Thou Cassinaus, on the other hand.”

Those who suffer in helping others upward
will find their wounds marks of blessing and
beauty. The saintliness which will have the
highest place in the Kingdom of Grace is not
the saintliness which keeps its garments white

by withholding itself from human need and sin, but that which, like the Master Himself, goes down to the lowest depths to lift up the fallen and the sorrowing.

What was Timothy's trust? It was emphatically the Gospel of the Grace of God that bringeth Salvation unto all men through Jesus Christ who hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light. Paul exhorts Timothy to hold fast the form of sound words to guard well that good things entrusted to him. The great privilege of this generation is the possession of a Gospel full and free to everybody a Saviour that saves from sin. The glad story is this: God saw the world lost and ruined through sin and He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that **WHOSOEVER** believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, and Jesus the spotless Son of God, equal with the Father, undertook Man's Redemption and He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. To effect this Redemption Jesus identified himself with man and lived as a man subject to all man's sorrow and woe for more than 30 years. The work of Redemption was **HIS TRUST**. Thank God at the end of His

earthly life He handed back the trust with joy saying "Those whom thou hast given me I have kept, and none of them is lost but the Son of perdition."

Isaiah had prophesied of the Messiah hundreds of years before "He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied." Now is the moment of supreme satisfaction. His work is finished, prophecy is fulfilled. He says "Those whom thou hast given me I have kept." But in the keeping He saw of "the travail of His soul." In the Garden when His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground, He cried "My soul is exceeding sorrowful." The physical agony was nothing, but oh the "TRAVAIL OF SOUL" oh! that desolateness of soul! when the Son of God poured out His soul crying, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me." He tasted death for every man—FOR YOU. He saw of the travail of His Soul. Now He can say "Those whom thou hast given me I have kept" and thank God He can add "and none of them is lost." Through time and eternity He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him. He is able to save to the

utmost ALL that come unto God by Him seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Timothy had entrusted to Him this glorious Gospel. He was to keep this Trust in a two fold way: FIRST for his own salvation by faith in Jesus; second to bring it to others for their salvation. Timothy was faithful to his trust.

Dear friend, you have heard the Gospel, it has been offered you time after time for your own salvation, by faith in Jesus and to make you a messenger to others. The year just closed has been a wonderful year. Many who have been years in Toronto, say they never saw such times of spiritual fervor and soul-saving work as last winter, scores and scores have found the Saviour in our own Church. Perhaps one of them was your friend, your kinsman, but when the Gospel was offered them for their salvation and by accepting it they were saved, it was offered equally to you but what have you done with it? Remember you are according to the Bible teaching a Lost Soul. "There is none righteous, no, not so much as one" that is none apart from Christ. "The wages of sin is death." "He that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name

of the Only begotten Son of God." Dear friend, God says you are not only lost but condemned if you are not a believer in Jesus and if you do not accept Jesus soon you shall be lost through all eternity, but thank God you need not be. God says, "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and He will have mercy on Him and to our God for He will abundantly pardon." Remember there is only one way of Salvation and that is through Jesus Christ. "Neither is there Salvation in any other, for there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Why there are not other ways I know not nor do I care—the one is sufficient and sufficient for all, sufficient for you. The year has come and gone and yet you are not saved notwithstanding all your opportunities, ere you know your life will be gone and you'll say "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and I am not saved." Do not begin this New Year by resolving but by definitely accepting Jesus Christ by faith as your personal Saviour.

Keep in mind this fact, **THE TRUST** is given you of God. He is your Master. He rewards. The wages are sure. They'll be right. No need

to strike. No need for a board of arbitration. The wages are sure, will be paid on time and will be just. There'll be no veneer He'll not see. Oh, friend, the only way you and I dare stand before that Judge is in Jesus Christ. I beseech you not to begin this year by resolving, but by a definite surrender of yourself to Jesus Christ as your Saviour, Lord and King, and you'll be able to say any day in the year or in any coming year, "I shall be satisfied when I awake in His likeness." May this year be full of the richest blessings to you and may you have the supreme joy of leading others to the Light.

