

others. His first thought was of his own brother.

When we come to Jesus we are aware that the salvation we receive is not intended to stop with us as individuals. We are to become channels of the love of God in a needy world.

This task we recognize is a matter of personal responsibility. We cannot merely be in favor of others discharging this responsibility, but we must individually accept our share in it.

We must recognize that this task begins near at hand with our own loved ones and neighbors but extends throughout the entire world. Compassion for the souls of men must not be governed by geography. Concern for those across the world but lack of concern for those near at hand is unsound. The reverse is equally true.

FIRST PRIORITY

The task we discover in Christ claims first priority. Many people in meeting Jesus find that their lives are revolutionized. Whereas they had planned on a given course of labor, they find themselves called by the Saviour to definite responsibilities in his kingdom. Some turn away from attractive careers in business or professional life to lay hand to preaching the gospel. Many turn away from this country that they love so much and go abroad to other lands to share the story of Jesus Christ with people they have never seen. This is done because they recognize the priority of our task in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.

The task we find is one for which he

gives grace. It is beyond our own resources. We are not qualified of ourselves to labor in his kingdom. We find, however, that his promise is dependable, for he has said, "And, lo, I am with you all the way, even unto the end of the age."

Meeting Jesus is a crisis. No one's life can be the same after he comes to meet Jesus Christ. If he turns away from Jesus as did the rich young ruler who refused to sell what he possessed, give it to the poor and follow Christ, he can do so only at great personal loss. No man can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and reject it without committing great sin.

When we meet Jesus Christ we find new claims come to our lives. We are taken out of ourselves and into his will and purposes.

The highest wisdom for any of us lies in embracing Christ as Saviour, finding from him the course of action he wishes for us, and give ourselves to it with full abandon regardless of the cost.

Hearing this broadcast are many people whose lives ought to be more significant. Just now a letter has come from one of our new missionaries, who describing the busy activities of the mission field said, "How ordinary my life must have been back at home."

You may be having an ordinary, meaningless, colorless life today. Christ may be calling you to a definite responsibility in his kingdom. Open your heart even now to him and say, "Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do?"

LAY YOUR BURDEN DOWN

BY DR. BAKER JAMES CAUTHEN

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Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

In the passage we have read Jesus tells us of two men who went up to pray. Both of them were sinners. The Pharisee was a sinner who was unrepentant. His heart was untouched by divine grace. He considered his sin to be a small inconsequential matter forgetting how it looked in the sight of God.

The Publican was a sinner. His heart had been touched by divine grace. His sin was a heavy burden upon him. He confessed his sin to the Lord and the Saviour said he went down to his house justified.

There are many burdened hearts today because of sin. It is time for us to lay those burdens down. Many burdened

hearts are those who have never turned to Jesus Christ in confession of sin and earnest faith asking for forgiveness.

Other burdened hearts are those of Christians who are aware of sin and failure in their own lives.

It is a fact that Christians sin. We should make no mistake. This is no small matter. It is no balm to make us feel that sin is unimportant or inconsequential.

Jesus said, "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 6:48)

God said, "Ye shall be holy for I Jehovah am holy." (Lev. 19-2)

Peter said, "Like he who calls you is holy, be ye also holy in all manner of living." (I Peter 1:15)

John said, "My little children these things write I unto you that you may not sin." (I John 1:2)

John said, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him neither knoweth him." (I John 3:8)

A REAL CHANGE

There is a real change in the life of a person who comes to Jesus Christ in faith.

It is, however, a fact that all Christians sin. In I John 1:8 we read, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." Paul said, "Not that I have already obtained nor am already made perfect." (Philippians 3:12)

The experience of every individual Christian would be that he fall short of what his Lord expects him to be and often must confess in tears, as did David, his terrible sin.

Often a Christian sins in neglect of his duty. The Bible teaches that he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin.

The neglect of duty can be the occasion of some of the deepest grief possible to a Christian's heart. When a person awakes to the tragedies which can come through neglected duty, he cannot possibly understand why he should have been so negligent, and yet he realizes that he has failed.

Often a Christian sins through pride, selfishness and unforgiving spirit. We disguise these sins in many forms. Our pride may sometimes look like humility. Our selfishness may look like great concern. Our unforgiving spirit may look like conviction. And yet all these sins may be very real in our lives.

Often a Christian sins through fear like Simon Peter. Through fear we may deny our Lord. Like John Mark we may turn back from the course of duty.

Sometimes a Christian sins through the weakness of the flesh. Our Lord told us that the spirit, indeed, is willing but the flesh is weak. A redeemed man still has a fleshly part of his nature through which there can come much trial and temptation.

Sin can come in many deceptive forms so as to appear plausible, logical or attractive.

The prevailing standards of the world may be so powerful and alluring as to cause a Christian to become confused. Many earnest Christians find themselves drifting into ways of the world until they become aware that their lives have become stained with evil.

It is possible for a Christian to be overtaken in tragic, glaring, shameful sin. The case of David is an outstanding example of this tragic fact. In the very height of his power and in the greatest time of responsibility he failed God, his nation, his family, and his friends in a miserable sordid sin.

PERSONAL SIN

When a Christian sins he suffers great injury. He is filled with a sense of failure, compromise, frustration, and shame. That feeling may express itself in disillusionment, bitterness, doubt, criticism, restlessness, and unhappiness. He may complain of many things about him, but the real trouble is that he is filled with his own sin.

He suffers sharp decline in spiritual interests. His prayer life declines and possibly even dies out. His Bible is neglected. His church interests are diminished. He has no power in witness or in soul-winning. He has little real fellowship with Christ. The inner poverty of his heart is beyond description.

When the Christian sins he is exposed to serious danger. He gets all confused and mixed up. Things look out of proportion to him. He can be easily deceived. He can become ensnared by philosophies of life toward which he would never have turned. He may adopt standards and practices he would never have tolerated. He may conclude that so much has been lost that nothing really matters and thereby may abandon any effort to change his situation. He may even conclude that he does not belong to God and that God no longer cares for him.

In this tragic condition he is subject to further temptation. He can be ensnared by satan and to be led into deep entanglements and involvements.

GOD—OUR FATHER

The Christian who sins develops a terrible burden in his heart. He has a burden of unconfessed and unforgiven sin. He is aware of the burden of God's displeasure. The chastening hand of God rests upon him. He is rebuked by his Lord. As he opens his Bible to read it, he finds words of rebuke. As he turns in his experience, he finds again that God chastens him as a father chastens a child. Thus a Christian who sins finds himself in a terrible state.

What must a Christian do about his sins?

For one thing he must remember that he still belongs to God. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)

Jesus said again, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37)

Jesus said, "My sheep, hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father who hath given them unto me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." (John 10:27)

He must remember that the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse from all sin. He can be cheered by the words recorded in the gospel of John, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the

world." (John 1:29) He can read with comfort the words of Isaiah, "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) He can remember with great comfort the words of John, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

We can remember that God will forgive our sins for Christ's sake. We can remember the story of the prodigal son told by Jesus and recall that as the father awaited the return of the son, our Lord will welcome us as we come back to him.

A Christian must do what God commands. He must confess and forsake his sin.

David said, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity did I not hide: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto Jehovah; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." (Psalm 32:5) We must remember that we have a great high priest who is our intercessor before the throne of God. He, the Righteous One, who overcame sin and is able to help us in our temptation, stands there to make intercession for God's own.

HE FORGIVES

There is forgiveness of sin for all who have turned away from God. We should not carry our burdens in our hearts and restrict our usefulness. We should come to God in earnest repentance. He does not need information about us. He knows all about us already. He does want us to come acknowledging our sin and forsaking our sin, depending completely upon Jesus Christ for cleansing from our sin.

To every heart aware of sin, this message comes saying, "Lay your burden down." Lay your burden down at the feet of Jesus and you find his grace is sufficient for you. If you have never come to Christ, the time to do so is right now. If you have come to him but have wandered into sin and have grieved his heart and injured your life, lay your burden down at his feet and accept the forgiveness he so readily offers.

(Continued on Page 31)

CONQUERING CHURCH

(Continued from Page 13)

out in the country, eight or nine miles, just good walking distance, called the pastor for one-fourth time on a salary of \$100. Things were getting better. It did not hurt him to walk out to his appointments and back, which he often did. The country people were exceedingly good. They had no money, most of them, but they did their best. One sister spun and wove jeans and paid her subscription to the pastor's salary with jeans to make the pastor a pair of pants. The wife cut and made them. The pattern was scant and the pants were an inch or two too short at both ends, but they were fine all in between.

THINGS GET BETTER

Things were better all the time. There were frequent accessions, people coming in for baptism out of families in no way connected with Baptists. One young man was converted and joined the church out of the university, and was called to preach.

The meeting house was infested with fleas, because the hogs slept under it. That had to be remedied. All hands gathered, dug postholes, sawed planks, and built a fence around the church, the professor in the university working side-by-side with the humblest member of the church. Things were going beautifully.

How did the pastor live? Well, in many ways. He had an eye to a large garden when he rented and he was a good gardener. He made an abundant garden, and he kept a fine cow. There is a great deal of living in a good garden with a good cow as an annex, eating all the refuse from the garden and turning it back into milk and butter. The pastor's cultured wife gave music lessons. She did fancy sewing now and then. She kept boarders. Sometimes she sold milk. In the summer time she kept a summer school for boys.

When the preacher got right up to the point that he had to have some more money, he took a prospectus of a family Bible and footed it through the country in vacation selling Bibles. He found homes, with grown children, that never had anything in them but a New Testament; and when the fine Bible was delivered, sometimes the mother would come

out with a dingy piece of paper with the records of births and deaths in the family to have it transcribed, often with tears.

He made money right along until he got as much as he had to have, then he quit. Another time when he must have \$20 and didn't know where to get it, a visiting brother out at the country preaching place took him aside and passed a \$20 bill to him with the word, "I just want to give you that." In the summer some meetings were held. One that lasted ten days, to which he went afoot, never netted a cent, but there was a fine meeting. One way and another they lived, and perhaps the two happiest people in that town were the pastor and his wife who were fighting month by month to make ends meet and to do a good work, and were winning. It was really a beautiful fight, right along with the church, for they were not more heroic than most of the church members.

The preacher and his wife divided the house work. He rose first, made the fires, drew the water, put the kettle on. By that time the wife was dressed. He dressed the children and made the beds, by the time breakfast was ready. The beds never looked right, but it made no difference when every one was asleep. It was just as fine as it could be.

CONSTANT REVIVAL

The church grew and grew until it became strong. Every word of this story is so. I was right there when it all happened, and I went back two years ago to the same place. Now the Baptist church has a beautiful meeting house, with a great Sunday school annex, and is distinctly the leading church in that town. It has sent out a wonderful force of workers for the denomination. Its present pastor was raised in its Sunday school and church. The old habit is kept up, of an almost constant revival. It is a winning church and has been from the very hour that the old saint in her room, with prayer, committed herself, the sisters and the church to the best that could be given for the cause of Christ.

What is the lesson that we get out of this? It is plain. If you will read the message of the Spirit to the church in Philadelphia, recorded in the third chapter

(Continued on Page 31)