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The Christian Informer

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OUR EMOTIONS AND OUR ILLS

MR. G. CANBY ROBINSON reported to the Association of American Physicians that emotional factors are present in about eighty percent of the average run of medical cases admitted to Johns Hopkins Hospital. They are directly related to the illness in sixty-six percent, and in thirty-eight percent they are the major precipitating cause.

Corroborating these statements, Dr. Crile of the Mayo Clinic says: "The emotions, worry, fear, hate and jealousy affect every cell in the body. Some organs are stimulated; some inhibited; all are disturbed; waste products are increased; foundations of certain characteristics of human diseases are laid.

"This is particularly true of those who have made civilization what it is and who now bear the burden; these have the greatest capacity and urge for work and worry."

Modern science finds true, therefore, as we should expect, what our dear Lord knew and taught. He was always right about men. "He knew what was in man." Hence the New Testament shows Him placing more emphasis upon the danger of the wrong kind of fear and anger than on any other emotion.

The Christian learns, therefore, that the small personality goes about with a "chip on his shoulder," ready to be angry at the slightest opportunity. The whole, complete person, can go to the cross and pray for the forgiveness of his crucifiers. One thief was angry, one was not. Which one cut himself off from Paradise?

While many a man will recognize the truth of these statements, he is puzzled by how he can avoid the danger. "Such multitudes of hindrances and provocations make it all but impossible to

avoid these emotions today. Life used to be different."

Real help is to be found in a story which came out of the last war. When Italy fell, well organized gangs smuggled silks, cereals, indeed, anything which could be sold was carried across the border into Switzerland. A Swiss trader was eager to smuggle some Italian honey. But how was he to get it over the frontier?

Having somehow got into communication with his Italian honey merchant, he told him to bring all his pots of honey close up to the frontier and leave the pots uncovered at the edge of the forest. The Swiss trader then moved his beehives to the other side of the valley, about a thousand yards from the open honey pots.

Within three days the Swiss bees had smuggled more than two hundred pounds of Italian honey across the frontier in spite of the barbed wire, and sentries, and traps, and Customs officials. Some of these obstacles were modern inventions, but a set of obstacles would have been there in any period of time, and all very dangerous. Our Lord tells us that, like the Swiss trader, we have got to get the honey across. We cannot permit ourselves to be beaten by whatever limitations or hindrances seem to be ganged up against us.

A lively trust in God nurtured by prayer, fed by sacramental grace, is the chart pointing to a poise quite secure against destructive emotions. Four lines of a poet might well form our nightly prayer:

When obstacles and trails seem
Like prison walls to be,
I do the little that I can
And leave the rest to Thee.

World's Wise Remarks

Henry Ward Beecher, American clergyman, 1813-87—"If you are idle you are on the way to ruin, and there are few stopping places upon it. It is rather a precipice than a road."

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, 1858-1919—"The first requisite of a good citizen of this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight."

Erick Brandies—"Don't ever tell me that the time of pioneering is gone. There is more need for pioneering today than ever before. But to get ahead in today's pioneering, you must work as hard and as long and as in-

telligently and as unselfishly as our pioneer forefathers did. Read your history; look around you."

Bishop Simon Patrick, English divine, 1626-1707—"The more quietly and peaceably we all get on, the better—the better for ourselves and the better for our neighbors. In nine cases out of ten the wisest policy is, if a man cheats you, quit dealing with him; if he is abusive, quit his company; if he slanders you, take care to live so that nobody will believe him. No matter who he is, or how he mis-uses you, the wisest way is to let him alone; for there is nothing better than this cool, calm, quiet way of dealing with the wrongs we meet with."

May You Have a Happy Lent



MAY YOU have a happy Lent!" A few years ago an older man of the Church surprised me with these words. I had always thought of Lent as a time when one gave up some good thing for the purpose of self-discipline, to "bring the body into subjection" to the control of the Spirit. This meant abstaining for a season from something enjoyable.

So too much of thought about Lent is negative, unhappy; it is of the loss of a good thing rather than that which is gained. "Make me of that which is gained. "Make me a clean heart, O God" suggests the condition of renewing "a right spirit within."

So purity is often thought of as abstinence from pleasures. Popular thought has the emphasis misplaced. Purity is a condition of life at its most effective level. The housewife washes the dishes so that the family will not be poisoned. A clean pot helps to insure the health of the family.

Why do the big factories employ highly trained metallurgists to test samples of the molten metal? To make sure that its freedom from foreign substances will make it strong to do the work for which it is intended. Purity is a condition of strength.

Or, to use another figure, armor is usually thought of as a defensive, designed to ward off the weapons of the enemy. But when St. Paul wrote to Ephesians of the armor of the Christian, he wrote of winning the battle. Notice the details of this armor: a girdle of truth, a breastplate of righteousness, sandals of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

The armor of the Christian is offensive, reaching out to cleanse, to win.

Truth always takes the offensive side of every argument. Did you ever argue with someone who rested his intellectual process upon the assertion "But this is true."

You could not budge him, until you blasted the foundations of his argument. And you have only to perceive the fallacy in the other person's argument and needle it with a ray of truth to turn the tables on your opponent.

Certainly there is nothing negative about being shod with the gospel of peace. The very weakness of our modern governments is shown by the fact that they dare not trust in peaceful methods. The power of God is such that He does not have to defend Himself. He waits until man has done his worst or best, and quietly upsets the structure that is not built upon His will.

Even the shield of faith is not a negative or defensive weapon. Faith is not unquestioning acceptance of the unproved; but it is perseverance in belief after the belief has been thoroughly scrutinized and intellectually accepted. Faith enters when belief is assailed by a mood of unlawful desire or compromise.

So also of the helmet of salvation. It is the crown of victory over the worst evil that can befall.

For centuries Christians have been losing arguments and winning life. It is the victory, at the point where victory counts. It is said of the British people that they have lost many a battle, but have seldom lost a war. The children of this world win the drinking bouts and the card games, but let us see to it that we win the victory of life. Take unto you the whole armor of God. Lay aside every weight, the sin that does so easily beset us. Run your race, so as to gain the crown.

GIVE THE HABIT OF CHURCH GOING FULL HOLD ON YOU

We are all ruled by habits, some good, some bad. Be sure to form good habits. The best habit you can ever form is that of regular church attendance.

COME TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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A NATIONAL JOURNAL

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If you saw it in the Christian Informer it must be true.



Something New

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5.

Shaken by this statement of Jesus, Nicodemus, the night-time visitor asked: "How can a man be born when he is old?" To the members of the true Church of Christ (Christian Church) the answer of Jesus is not as new as it was to Nicodemus.

Here we learn that a person who is not reborn of water and of the Spirit, does not even know that the Church of Christ is the kingdom of God, that only those who are reborn, by water and the Spirit, can be in it.

Jesus said, "That which is born of flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said, Ye must be born again." The natural man regards this as a strange statement of the Lord, but He clearly indicates that only through baptism in water and the Spirit, working through the Word of God, can men be brought into the kingdom of God. There is no other way.

Like Some Men We Know

Nicodemus was a master in Israel, he was confused and entirely at a loss. All his training in

the Hebrew sacred books failed to give him the key of understanding of the words of the Lord.

Back to The Wilderness

Jesus takes Nicodemus back to the wilderness days of the Hebrews, when God commanded that a brazen serpent was to be lifted up, so that those who suffered might look and live . . . So should every one who believes in the crucified and risen Jesus, repent of their sins, confess Him as their Saviour, and be buried with Him in Christian baptism.

Come Out In The Open

We must come out in the open with the doctrine of the New Testament Church and of our faith in Christ as Nicodemus did at the critical time when it was dangerous to do so, namely at the crucifixion and death of the Lord and later, as well, when he became a joyous witness to His resurrection.

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Stop The Leaks

A certain young preacher who is a product of a certain United Christian Missionary Society Church, located in Baltimore, and a graduate of Southern Christian College, is now a member of the Episcopal Church.

Another young preacher who is a product of the above mentioned church, and a graduate of Jarvis Christian College, pastored the great Romine Street Christian Church, Dallas, Texas, and the Lea Ave. Christian Church, Nashville, Tenn., which was made famous by the late Preston Taylor, is now a member of the Episcopal Church.

Another young preacher who is a product of the above mentioned church, located in Virginia, and a graduate of Piedmont Christian Institute, Martinsville, Va., and for several years pastored a Christian Mission in Philadelphia, Pa., is now a member of the Zion Methodist Church. . . Because of the shortage of preachers, the churches of the National Christian Missionary Convention, helped some of those preachers through college.

Open-Membership In Action

The Un-Scriptural doctrine of the Open-Membership Brethren punched holes in the Brotherhood Bucket and a large number of preachers and members leaked out. All of their schools and colleges have leaked out, except one.

About two years ago Southern Christian College, after 78 years of glorious history, closed its doors and leaked into a school of another faith.

Take Root

The leaks can be stopped if preachers, members and churches would throw off the doctrine of the open-membership brethren, and TAKE ROOT in the Doctrine of the New Testament, as the Fathers did who built the Brotherhood.

Letters to The Editor

We certainly look forward to the coming of the Christian Informer. It is Church of Christ's best paper published.—Elder G. E. Letton, Minister, Kentucky.

* * *

I have been a member of the United Holiness Church for 37 years. The sermon you preached at Bluefield was so plain, I have in mind to unite with the Christian Church. I enjoy reading the Christian Informer.—Yours in Christ, Elder Garfield Ferguson, West Virginia.

* * *

I am not able to get around so well, but thank you so very much for your gift.—Elder A. C. Chichon, Illinois.

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Fred Curiton, South Carolina; J. E. Peters, Maryland; Peter Alexander, Maryland; Mrs. Sarah Wilson, Maryland; Mrs. E. E. Foard, Maryland; Mr. Lewis Smallwood, Maryland; William Sevell, Maryland; Fred Johnson, Tennessee; Lewis Alston, Alabama; Mrs. Meta Bass, North Carolina.

You'll find my subscription enclosed. Keep the light in the window and the fire burning.—J. N. Keys, Mississippi.

* * *

Sending three dollars, one for subscription for the Christian Informer and the rest use wherever needed most. I love your paper very much. I have a poem I am going to send you, it is very old, I have had it since 1904. Hope you like it. Your Christian Informer of Nov. & Dec. 1955—everything in it was fine. We can all get a lot of good out of it—I wouldn't do without it. Wishing you all the best of everything, in His work to help others.—Sincerely, (Mrs.) Tura T. Theobald, Ohio.

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The Church of Christ---A Divine Organization

All human governments, society, organization has a positive and definite laws, which are imposed upon all who become members. And when there are a number of terms required in order to admission all well organized institutions have a uniform mode of admitting members. No one would think of being a member in violation of the constitution and laws of such organization.

If men would observe the same common sense rule when seeking admission to the Church of Christ, superstition and errors would vanish, and Christian people would soon be relieved from the absurd and humiliating position they now occupy, before the world of having all sorts of doctrine, and imposing various terms of pardon, not taught by Christ nor His apostles, Christianity is a divine system. It is order harmony and law; the law of spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which hath made us free from the law of sin and death.

No person should ever make the mistake or commit the folly of selecting a case as a model of pardon, when only one term of pardon is mentioned. Such as faith, repentance, confession and baptism. For there is no case on record where there is any one of these terms to the exclusion of the other. Even if we should find a single example of a single person, by hearing alone, by

To the Brethren of the National Christian Preaching Convention

TEXT - Ye are the light of the world.

THEME - A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick: and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

EXHORTATION - Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 5:14-16.

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Your Church and Mine

As I read the Sunday paper,

I ran across this line:

"Today you go to your church,
And I will go to mine."

Sincerely friend, which is yours?

Is one your very own?

Frankly, now, I have no church,
And only know of one.

I've read the Bible o'er and o'er,

But never found that line:

"Today you go to your church,
And I will go to mine."

"Upon this rock, I'll build my church,"

The Savior said one day;

And before the dear Lord died,
He humbly knelt to pray.

"May they be one as we are one,

All who believe on me,

So that the world may surely know,
I'm loved and sent by Thee."

He bought the church with His own blood,

The first born from the dead;

He is the Savior of the church,
He is its only head.

Yes, you may go to your church,

But let me tell you this,

Your worship may be void and vain,
Unless you go to His.

—From The Rylie Rambler

repentance alone, or baptism alone, we would not be justified in presenting such a case as an example of pardon.

—J. N. Keyes, Mississippi

The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means, and the exercising of ordinary qualities. These may, for the most part, be summed up in these two: Common sense and perseverance.

A Renewal of Faith

This Lent calls us as never before to renew our faith through rededication of our lives to God. Surely these days do not justify cheap pessimism nor despair.

Remember that wherever there exists great need there also abounds the even greater power of God, waiting, if we will let it, to help. St. Paul has well said, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able."

Stormy days test the soundness of the life of anything, be it a building, a tree or a man; they reveal the hidden defects of structures, or the rottenness at the heart of a tree or a man. We must constantly strive to strengthen our inner man.

The proper use of Lent provides such a program. Here we forego certain foods or pleasures, not for the sake of going without, but to grow; we go to Lenten services, not to get but to give ourselves to God; we devote extra time to Lenten reading, not for pleasure but to discover more about God.

As we do this, we come closer to God and can more intelligently rededicate ourselves to Him and His service. I call upon you all to make a determined effort to attend your church regularly this Lent.

Major Message

The Bible contains the major message that God wishes to deliver to humanity, and when that message has been heeded, marvelous progress has been made.

When men have failed to listen to that message, tragedy has awaited them.

James Russell Lowell said, "Show me a place on this planet ten miles square, where a man may live in decency, comfort and security, supporting and educating his children, a place where age is revered, infancy respected, womanhood honored and human life held in due regard, and I will show you a place where the Gospel has gone before and laid the foundation."



This Is the Victory A Great Power

When you can bear with any discord, any annoyance, any irregularity, unpunctuality (of which you are not the cause) that is victory.

When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly, glorying in the insult or the oversight, that is victory.

When you can stand face to face with folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, contradiction of sinners, persecution, and endure it all as Jesus endured it, that is victory.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, nor to record your good works, nor to seek any commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown, that is victory.

When your good is not well spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your tastes offended, your advice disregarded, your notions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient and loving silence, that is victory.

Come to Church.

Let me point you to a power which even today can cope with any emergency: Christ, the power of righteousness. He makes men right with God. He places them in harmony with the Eternal, in tune with the Infinite. He takes the weary, wayward child by the hand and leads it back to the Father's house. He clears the conscience of the awful, raking, embittering, debilitating consciousness of unforgiven guilt. He gives peace to the soul, peace that makes us calm and strong. He blots out the record of our folly and sin and shame which we wrote down upon the pages of life's story. He brings us into fellowship with God, so that His life becomes ours and our life is wrapped up in His.

The Chinese definition of a "crisis" is "a dangerous opportunity".

Many a truth has been spoken by accident.



Two little girls left alone! It sounds like the beginning of a sad story.

But look again. There are certainly no tears. There is a comfortable home; and pretty clothes.

But these children have been given a great deal more than the ordinary comforts of life. There in the older child's hand is a book, "The Story of Jesus."

How reassuring to see that they have been given the advantages of a Christian training. Somehow all doubt has been removed from our

minds. We feel that these little girls will be safe—not only during this one evening, but through their entire lives.

All of us want our children to be shielded from life's hardships and temptations, but we can guarantee no such protection. Our surest course is that we rear them in a Christian atmosphere, and take them to the services of the Church regularly. Then, and then only, will we know that we have done everything in our power for their future success, happiness and salvation.



Our Invitation

To all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are homeless and need sheltering love, to all who pray and to all who do not, but should, to all who sin and need a Saviour: this Church opens wide its doors and makes free a place, and in the Name of Jesus, the Lord, says, Welcome. Make your faith an active, daily part of your personal life. Go to Church regularly. Support your local Church. Find a way to give it more of your time and strength.

The Master Is Coming!

By Sophia B. Boynton

I

They said, "The Master is coming
To honor the town today.
And none can tell at whose house or home
The Master will choose to stay,"
And I thought while my heart beat wildly,
What if He should come to mine?
How would I strive to entertain
And honor the Guest Divine?

II

And straight I turned to toiling
To make my home more neat;
I swept and polished and garnished
And decked it with blossoms sweet;
I was troubled for fear the Master
Might come 'ere my task was done;
And I hastened and worked the faster,
And watched the hurrying sun.

III

But right in the midst of my duties
A woman came to my door;
She had come to tell me her sorrows,
And my comfort and aid implore,
And I said, "I cannot listen,
Nor help you any today;
I have greater things to attend to,"
And the pleader turned away.

IV

And soon there came another—
A cripple, thin, pale, and gray—
And said, "Oh let me stop and rest
Awhile in your home I pray
I have traveled far since morning,
I am hungry and faint and weak;
My heart is full of misery,
And comfort and help I seek."

V

And I said, "I am grieved and sorry,
But cannot help you today;
I look for a great and noble Guest,"
And the cripple went away.
The day wore on more swiftly,
And my task was nearly done,
And a prayer was in my heart
That the Master to me might come.

VI

And I thought I would spring to meet Him
And serve Him with utmost care,
When a little child stood by me,
With a face so sweet and fair—
Sweet, but with marks of tear-drops,
And his clothes were tattered and old;
A finger was bruised and bleeding,
And his little bare feet were cold.

VII

I said, "I am sorry for you;
You are sorely in need of care,
But I cannot stop to give it—
You must hasten elsewhere."
At the words a shadow
Swept o'er his blue-veined brow,
"Someone will feed and clothe you, dear,
But I am too busy now."

VIII

At last the day was ended,
And my toil was over and done;
My house was swept and garnished,
And I watched in the dark alone—
Watched, but no footfall sounded,
No one paused at my gate,
No one entered my cottage door;
I could only pray and wait.

IX

I waited till night had deepened,
And the Master did not come.
"He has entered some other door," I cried,
And gladdened, some other home."
My labor had been for nothing,
And I bowed my head and wept;
My heart was sore with longing,
Yet spite of it all I slept.

X

Then the Master stood before me,
And His face was grave and fair;
Three times today, I came to your door,
And craved your pity and care;
Three times you sent Me onward,
Unhelped and un comforted.
And the blessing you might have had was lost
And your chance to save has fled."

XI

"Oh Lord, dear Lord, forgive me!
How could I know it was Thee?
My very soul was shamed and bowed
In the depths of humility,
And He said, "The sin is pardoned,
But the blessing is lost to thee:
For comforting not the least of Mine,
You have failed to comfort Me."

We Go This Way But Once

We go this way but once, O heart of mine,
So why not make the journey well worth while,
Giving to those who travel with us
A helping hand, a word of cheer, a smile?

We go this way but once. Ah! never more
Can we go back along the selfsame way,
To get more out of life, undo the wrongs,
Or speak love's words we knew but did not
say.

We go this way but once. Then let us make
The road we travel blossomy and sweet
With helpful, kindly deeds and tender words,
Smoothing the path of bruised and stumbling
feet.