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The Love That We Need Today

We hear a lot about love today. We are told that we should love our brother. It is said that we should love one another instead of opposing our fellow man. This is true, but those who preach love often end up in rioting and fighting those who do not agree with them. In spite of all that is said about love, there seems to be less of it demonstrated than ever before.

So many of those who constantly preach love think only in terms of physical or carnal love. Their minds are pre-occupied with fleshly pleasures and they have therefore concluded that this kind of emphasis is the solution to the problems of the world of today. But this is not true. Free love, or fleshly love, that is under consideration here, adds to the problem instead of solving it. We are reminded of the Apostle John's statement, when he said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof : but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2 : 15-17).

What is love ? It is affection, attraction, friendship, and a concern for another. It may be physical under the proper circumstances, but we are thinking more in terms of brotherly love at this time. This is a love that we should have for one another. Love should be the basis for all of our actions and relationships. For a better definition then read 1 Corinthians 13 where Paul tells what love is, what it will do, and what it will not do.

The world does need love. It needs more and more of it. It needs to be the pure, genuine, and sincere type. It should not stop with the man and woman relationship or with just one's own immediate family. Rather, it should take in his friends,

neighbors, country, and the world. Jesus has even said that we should love our enemies. Listen to him : "But I say unto you, I love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Matthew 5 : 44).

We should not understand though that love will lead us to compromise the truth or to cover our eyes to the sins that are about us. Love will, however, cause us to be more patient, understanding, and forgiving in dealing with our brother. It will encourage us to go to him instead of waiting for him to come to us for help. This is the kind of love that the world needs not just the kind that is talked about but the kind that is practiced. This is what will do the world more good than anything else. This is what will change the world for better. Love is not a sign of weakness but of strength.

The love that is under consideration here is founded in God and Jesus Christ his Son. As a result of it, we are brought to the point of obeying his teaching and that of practicing his will in our lives. That love that we have for him leads us to love our neighbor and all others in this world. (Matthew 22 : 36-39). Because we love him we love one another also.

ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

Let's Start Digging

After Christ had died on the cross to save all man-kind from their sins, he was buried in a tomb. However, it was not possible that he should be holden of it ; for he was the Son of God. God raised him up on the third day after his death according to the scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15 : 1-4). After his resurrection he was seen by several thousand men and women. He also met with his disciples and he commanded them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost : teaching them to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you : and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28 : 19, 20).

When his disciples began to teach and preach, they taught and preached all things that Christ had commanded them. They also wrote down in the New Testament, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3 : 16), whatsoever the Lord had wanted his people to believe and practice. The early Christians continued steadfastly in all those things and the church of the Lord flourished. (Acts 2 : 42, 47).

However, after some time when all the Apostles had died, several men arose from among the church who began to teach and preach several different things contrary to what Christ had commanded. They taught many perverse things to draw away the followers of the Lord after them, as the Apostle Paul had already said many years before it happened. (Acts 20 : 29-30 ; 1 Timothy 4 : 3-4). They began to teach that the Pope (a mere man) was the head of the church. Whereas the Bible says that Christ is the head of the church. (Colossians 1 : 18). Christ built his church, and he adds the saved to his church. (Matthew 16 : 18 ; Acts 2 : 47). They founded many different churches and taught people to join them. Christ said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16 : 16). These false teachers began to teach that he that believes is saved and may be baptized if he chooses. The Bible teaches that we are not saved by faith *only*. (James 2 : 24). They teach we are saved by faith alone. The Bible says there is one baptism (Ephesians 4 : 5), and that it is a burial in water. (Colossians 2 : 12 ; Acts 8 : 38). They said there are many baptisms (sprinkling, pouring, immersion, etc.). We read in the Bible that the disciples of Christ were called “Christians”. (Acts 11 : 26). However, these antichrists began to call themselves as *dist*, *list*, etc., etc. These teachers of perverse doctrine did not only advocate the foregoing teachings, but they introduced several other things too, such as infant baptism, the use of mechanical instruments of music in the

church, calling their preachers Reverend, Father, etcetra (the names belong only to God, see Psalms 111 : 9 ; Matthew 23:9).

Now the question arises that when Christ or his Apostles didn't teach any of these things mentioned above, then why do people believe and practice them ? It is simply because they are taught to do so. They are never taught all that Christ has commanded in the New Testament, instead they are told perverse things. Had they never been taught such things, but only all things that Christ had commanded, they would have never been believed and practiced.

When Isaac was living in the land of Gerar, and the Lord had blessed him with many things, he became so rich and mighty that the people of Philistine began to envy him. Abraham, Isaac's father, had digged many wells while he was alive. However, the Philistines, because of envy, filled all the wells with earth and stopped them. Later the king of the Philistines told Isaac to leave Philistine since he had become much mightier than them. We read, "And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. And Isaac digged again the wells, of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father ; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham : and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them." (Genesis 26 : 17-18).

We notice from the above statement that Isaac digged the same wells that his father had made, and that he named them the same as his father had . You should note that he did not make new wells but he digged out the same wells that his father had digged. He did not give them new names but he gave them the same names.

Let us follow this example and let us start digging the wells of Christianity. The enemies of Christianity for many years have filled it with many wrong teachings and perverse doctrines. Let's start digging all man-made teachings and practices out of Christianity, and let us call everything as the Bible calls them,

Let us stop teaching new things. Instead we should teach the same old things that Christ had commanded. (1 Peter 4 : 11). In fact we should start this digging in our own lives and homes. My friends, I plead with you, take the instrument, the New Testament, and start digging right now and continue to do so until you bring out even the last error.

Is Your Life Insured?

Vipul Rai

If so, what about your life after death ? Or didn't you know that there is a life after death ? There most certainly is.

Everyone will die a physical death. You will, and so will I. But our soul will continue to exist in one of only two places—heaven or hell. There is no place in between. Heaven is too wonderful to describe. All I can say is that in heaven there is no suffering, no hate, but everlasting joy and love AND the presence of God. On the other hand, hell is even worse than the worst we can imagine. In hell you will be without the presence of God, but in the midst of fire and brimstone ! Those who go there will forever be in tears. There will be “wailing and gnashing of teeth.” We are told by God in his word, the Bible, that this fire is other than the one we are used to. It gives the person in it the same pain and symptoms as the fire we know, but it does not destroy. Here on earth, if we so happen to be thrown into fiery flames, at least we have the consolation that as soon as we die, our suffering will be over. But this is not so in hell. Our soul will never die and so the pain and suffering never ends. Never ! Can you imagine this ? Everlasting existence in such a terrible place ! I tremble even to think of it. Surely you do not want to go there !

You can insure yourself against this. Everyone has sinned, the Bible says in Romans chapter 3 verse 23. But what is sin ? Sin is going against God's will. Even a small lie or an evil *thought* is sin in God's sight. God cannot tolerate

sin. You cannot see God if you sin ! God warns us in Romans chapter 6 verse 23 that "the wages of sin is death ; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Sin can only lead one to hell. But there is a way out.

God loves us and He has provided the way. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). "But without faith it is impossible to please him..." (Hebrews 11:6). "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). Those who obeyed God's commandments continued in "Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10).

This is God's way for you and me to be saved. This is how your life after death can be insured ! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the only person who lived a sinless life. History cannot disprove this fact. Christ was crucified on the cross for our sake. He did not deserve this death, yet he bore it because he loved us enough to die for us. He was buried but he didn't remain in the grave ! The third day he was resurrected and showed himself to his disciples. Several critics have tried to prove this false, yet none have succeeded. They are now dead, but the Bible still lives and continues to be sold by the millions. God protects His Word and His truth. Only he can protect you. Only He can send you to hell or bring you to heaven. He is showing us the way to life everlasting through His Word. Only Christ is the answer. He alone can forgive you of your sins if you obey him. God has shown us that Christ's sacrifice on our behalf was acceptable to Him, by *raising* Christ. Jesus lives today and with his loving arms outstretched is bidding *YOU* to come to him and

taste of life everlasting. "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world. but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17).

You may have insured your old age with an insurance policy but that ends with your death. What about the Future? Christ conquered death, and through him, so can you. All you have to do is obey him. You may be paying monthly instalments for your policy, but God's policy calls simply for faith and loving obedience and the reward is eternal life. It cannot even be called a reward because we never deserved it. We deserve everlasting death! Everlasting life is God's gift to you and me. Obey and the gift will be yours. Then go out and spread this Good News—"Jesus saves."

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Why do men disobey God?

V. E. Howard

Ladies and gentlemen, why do men disobey God? Why do men insist on having their own way in everything? It seems most people are self-willed, and this disposition manifests itself at an early age. Whatever God has forbidden, men often desire and pursue. So often, whatever God authorizes, men seem to dislike and oppose. All such sin is a contention against the will of God. Truly, the carnal mind is enmity against God!

It all began in the garden of Eden. Adam disobeyed the divine commandment and all of us have followed his example. The Old Testament is filled with the accounts of those who suffered because of disobedience.

In every age men strive to be justified by their own works—by their own wills. For example, when the Lord's prophet told Naaman to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan River, Naaman exclaimed, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean?" (2 Kings 5:12). The will of God caused Naaman to go away in a rage. His self-will almost led him to throw away his only chance of healing.

Jesus illustrated this disposition in a parable when He said,

"But what think ye ? A man had two sons ; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in the vineyard. And he answered and said, I will not : but afterward he repented himself, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir : and went not. Which of the two did the will of his father ?" (Matthew 21 : 28-31). While both of these sons changed their minds, yet their inclination was to go contrary to the will of the father, Most men disobey God, not because the divine will is so difficult, but because they want to have their own way. Men often rebel against submitting to any authority over them. We forget that we belong on God's footstool, not on His throne. The Creator made us to follow and obey, not to lead and dictate.

Two Kinds of Sins

The essence of obedience is willing submission to authority. Our God, out of His great wisdom and authority, has given men two kinds of commands. There are moral commands and there are positive, or religious commands. The difference between the two kinds of commands is not clearly stated in any one passage in the Bible, yet a little thought will show the real difference.

A moral command, or law, regulates a man's natural relationships. There are some things that are right within themselves and there are some things that are wrong within themselves. The inherent relationship between the Creator and the creature makes it right that men reverence God and have no other gods. In our relationship with each other there are certain things that are inherently right, or inherently wrong. Lying, stealing and murder are inherently wrong. The commands regulating us in these matters are said to be moral commands, or moral laws. These inherent laws have always been recognized in well-ordered societies—often even where men were unaware of God's revelation.

It is not easy, however, to see how some of God's commands grow out of our natural relationships. In fact, some of them seem to be contrary to natural relationships. For example, when God commanded Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, the command seemed to violate the most natural and fundamental relationship between the father and his son. The will of the law-giver was the sole authority for this command. Such a command seems senseless to the human will. The command to Naaman to dip seven times in the Jordan River made little sense to him. There was no logical reason why that action should cure him of leprosy. During the life and ministry of Jesus, He once commanded a blind man to go and wash in the

pool of Siloam. This was a positive command, yet there was no logical or natural reason involved—at least not as far as men could see.

Thus we see that from the beginning of man's history there have been two basic kinds of sins—moral transgressions, plus many sins which had no relationship to morality, but were simply violations of the Lord's positive, religious commandments.

Moral Transgressions

First, let us observe several principles involved in the moral sins. Unless the conscience has been completely seared, moral creatures have a sense of moral responsibility. Most people have a certain built-in-moral perception, yet widespread misconceptions have developed in our society.

Many people have come to feel that moral sins are not very bad because they are so prevalent. Men are teaching that the only criterion of conduct is the social custom of the day. We are being told that public acceptance purifies a practice. Beloved, when this philosophy becomes popular, immorality becomes the rule and morality becomes the exception. When this happens in a society, as it has today, those who adhere to morality appear to be peculiar, old mossbacks—out of tune, and out of step with the times. This dangerous trend is increased, especially for our young people, when immoral personalities are held up and glamorized as heroes and heroines. This results in giving sin a stamp of respectability. A civilization is in grave danger when the vilest of sins are winked at, and when practically nothing shocks its people.

Some so-called intellectuals would have us believe that sin is the "invention" of preachers. They tell us that we could forget all our guilt feelings, and live happily ever after, if preachers would just stop talking about right and wrong. Men have jested about sin until they no longer realize the seriousness and deceitfulness of disobedience. In Proverbs 14 : 9, God branded such men when He declared : "Fools make a mock at sin."

Others are advancing the idea that any practice is permissible if the one engaging in it sees no wrong in his action. Such a conclusion is unthinkable, however, in the relationship we sustain to our Creator. God's word clearly sets forth a definite, fixed standard of right and wrong.

Ladies and gentlemen, why does God require moral purity ? Why has He set before men a standard of righteousness ? The

obvious answer is because our Maker knows what is good for mankind. Think of the final result of any moral sin! The inescapable conclusion is that sin always brings sorrow and bitter fruit. One great poet and philosopher, who tried everything this world had to offer, concluded: "There's not a joy the world can give, like that it takes away." Moral laxity will always destroy a man's appetite and appreciation for spiritual things.

Religious Sins

Although moral transgressions cause the soul of man to deteriorate, *moral goodness alone* is not sufficient to justify him before God. From the very beginning of man's history we find many sins which had no real relationship to morality—they were violations of the Lord's positive, religious commands.

For example, notice the *sin of substitution*. God told Cain and Abel to offer animal sacrifices, but Cain disregarded the will of God and substituted an offering of the fruit of the field. There was nothing immoral about offering the fruit of the field, but it was a violation of God's positive command concerning worship. Cain did something in the name of religion, yet it was a sin—the sin of substitution.

There is also the *sin of transgression*—religious transgression as well as moral transgression. Under the law of Moses, breaking the Sabbath was a sin (Numbers 15 : 33-36). This had nothing to do with moral matters; it was a religious sin.

Then there is the *sin of adding to God's law*. The apostle John wrote: "Whosoever goeth onward, and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God" (2 John 9-11).

On the other hand there is the *sin of omission*. To delete some of God's commandments by simply failing to obey them is sin, too. James 4:17 reveals: "To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." And in the last chapter of the Bible, Revelation 22, Christ warned that men must neither add to nor take from God's law.

Beloved, did you know that *partial obedience is sin*, when it is a rejection of the Lord's authority? For example, King Saul of the Old Testament was commanded to kill all the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15). And Saul did almost everything the Lord told him to do. He destroyed everything except the king and some choice animals which he kept to sacrifice to God. The prophet Samuel, God's spokesman, rebuked him sharply for his *disobedience*. Hear the Lord's verdict! Are you listening? "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken

than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:22). King Saul's partial obedience was a sin of rebellion and stubbornness against the will of God.

Sources of Disobedience

Since obedience is one of the most important lessons mankind has to learn, it is vital that we come to understand the *sources of disobedience*—the root causes of disastrous disobedience. They are many and varied, because Satan uses a quiver full of arrows.

In Luke, chapter eight, when Jesus gave the parable of the sower, He referred to the seed that fell by the wayside, where it was trodden under foot and then devoured by the birds of the heaven. Beloved, Jesus was herein representing the hardened heart and the condition of infidelity, or unbelief. This is the heart that will not receive the seed of the kingdom, God's word. Hebrews 11 : 6 reveals that "he that cometh to God must believe that he is." Infidelity is one of the chief causes of disobedience and complete rebellion against God. Jesus declared : "Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8 : 24).

Considering further the parable of the sower, we find that the seed that was sown on the stony ground fell into a surface soil which had a strata of rock beneath it. The soil was just not deep enough to give growth to the seed. This soil in the parable represents the heart of apathy or indifference. This heart received the word with joy at first, but due to the lack of depth and roots it soon fell away and became disinterested. The indifference of otherwise good people is tragic and alarming. Many people seem to be totally indifferent to the existence of God and the Bible. When they happen to hear God's word it makes no real impression on them. Satan easily takes the word out of their hearts through some distraction or temptation. Shallow, rootless, apathetic, indifferent—without God and without hope—they face eternity casually, as if it were nothing to be concerned about. How tragic !

The third soil in the parable of the sower was the thorny ground, where the thorns and thistles choked out the seed. This represents the worldliness that crowds out the seed of God's word in so many hearts. The greed for riches and the craze for pleasure perpetuate the disobedience of countless thousands today. Men become "choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8 : 14). Lot's wife looked back because her heart was still in Sodom.

It is impossible for a person to take up his cross and follow Christ when his heart remains behind. Where we set our affections—that is where our hearts and our lives will be. A love for the worldly, carnal things is one of the most common causes of sin.

My friends, the “honesty only” theory is another prominent cause of disobedience to God. How many people have you heard say, “It makes no difference what one believes, just so he is honest”? Beloved, Satan has used this deception to lull many disobedient souls to sleep with a sense of security. Yet this is a *false sense of security*, and those who fall prey to it will, of course, make no effort to seek more truth that they might obey it. Ladies and gentlemen, did you know that people will not adopt such a foolish theory in anything but religion? All of us have honestly thought something to be true, only to discover later it was not. Honesty alone is not sufficient. Following one’s feelings, or conscience, has often caused disobedience to God’s will. The apostle Paul had a clear conscience while he was persecuting Christ, but his honesty did not make it right. Later Paul had a great sorrow in his heart over the lost condition of his Jewish brethren, and wrote about them saying: “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God” (Romans 10 : 2, 3). Beloved, honesty and religious zeal are not enough. We must come to a knowledge of the truth and, from the heart, obey that truth !

Another common cause of disobedience is a rebellious heart. The spirit of rebellion can range all the way from the atheist to the person who simply rebels at some command which doesn’t please him at the moment. Men often desire preeminence—even over God ! Having one’s way in everything is a childish and dangerous life-style, and especially so in the spiritual realm ! We are to be obedient citizens of God’s kingdom. We are to be in subjection, as God’s children, members of His family. How few truly learn the spirit of obedience !

There are so many reasons why men disobey God. Some are moral cowards who lack the courage to go against the crowd and, as Pilate of old, listen to the voice of the people instead of the will of God. Some disobey because of following blind leaders. If men blindly follow after blind leaders, Jesus said, “Both shall fall into a pit” (Matthew 15 : 14). Some disobey because they have closed minds. As Jesus stated :

"This people's heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed" (Matthew 13 : 15).

Yet with those who know what God desires of them, perhaps the greatest cause of disobedience is **PROCRASTINATION** ! Men listen to Satan's "tomorrow" instead of God's "today". The illusion of tomorrow has caused untold millions to pass into eternity unprepared to meet their God !

Beloved, do you honestly believe that Christ is the hope of mankind ? Are you a child of God, having repented of disobedience and rebellion, and been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life ? If a Christian, are you growing in the spirit of obedience ? Ladies and gentlemen, hear me . . . are you listening ? Why are YOU disobeying God ?

Being Not Ignorant of Satan's Devices

W. Harlend Dilbeck

The Bible says in that day when an uncovered and unveiled God is descending to interview the human race, and we are standing in His presence, that, "Many will say, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name ? and in thy name have cast out devils ? and in thy name done many wonderful works ? and then will I profess unto them I never knew you."

"Why Lord, I was a member of the church."

"I never knew you."

"Why, Lord, I was baptized."

"I never knew you."

"Why, Lord, I was moral and never committed any outrageous sin."

"I never knew you." Many, many, not a few, will say, Lord, I did this and that, and God will say, "I never knew you."

"Why, Lord, I walked and talked with you when you were here on earth. I sat at the table and ate with you. I saw you cleanse lepers, open the eyes of the blind, stop funeral processions. I heard the great sermons that you preached, the truths that you taught, and the parables you uttered. I was standing there on Calvary with the 3,000,000 people and saw the world turn black when you dropped your head and shouted, 'It is

finished. I have opened up a plan of redemption whereby the world might be saved.' "

"I never knew you."

Who were these people ? Church members that crossed life with their names on a church record and not on the record of the skies. Deceived souls that drifted out with the tide and up to the judgement with the blood on their feet instead of on their heart.

"Except your righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven." And yet, the scribes were the men that copied the Scriptures in their day and the Pharisees were the most religious people externally that the world has ever known. No man today could hope to live up to any higher standard of morals than the scribes and Pharisees attained in the days of Jesus Christ. Then what of the negative, noncommittal, half-hearted, Godless, way that some professed Christians are living.

We are told that in South America there is a vampire bat that never comes out except under cover of darkness and it will sail around looking for a victim who in that warm climate sleeps in the yard or in a room without screens. This bat will light within ten or fifteen feet of its prey. It has long, rubber-like wings, and it begins to fan, and that creates a morphining, cocainizing, paralyzing, subduing atmosphere. This bat all the time, as he fans, is drawing nearer. After awhile he stands over his victim, and fans, and soothes, and calms, and then, with his long cambric needle-like bill, he penetrates a vital spot and he sucks his fill of blood and then sails away under cover of darkness. After so long a time, the victim comes out from his stupor and he realizes that the vampire bat has had hold of him.

There is a black-winged vampire bat of the graveyard of the damned that is sailing over the world, and he is fanning, and soothing and calming, and morphining, and cocainizing, and caressing, and lullybying and saying, "Don't you wake up. You have been baptized and you are doing a little pre-elected church work to cool and sooth your conscience. Of course you are substituting activities for spirituality, but you are not an outrageous sinner. You are as good as other folks. You have never done any harm. Of course you are worldly and it would be necessary to turn a telescope on you to see any difference between you and the average sinner, but your preacher doesn't believe in arousing you. You just sleep on, child. Don't become aroused and lose your bearings."

There was a series of pictures in the Louvre of Paris of a young man and the devil playing chess. The wager is the young man's soul. In the first series a great throng is looking on, and it appears that the young man is playing a successful, scientific game. But the devil moves in here, and intercepts over there, and at last the young man wakes up to the fact that he has played too long, that he has lost his soul, and his face is buried in his hands. The devil is in his glee, and jubilant over his success, and his defeated victim. The throng is bewildered with wonder, amazed and dazed, saying that he has played one game too many.

We see men in the world, and looking at them from a worldly standpoint, it seems that they are playing a successful game ; but times rolls on, and months come and go, and years pass by. The devil slips in here, he takes advantage, hinders, blockades, intercepts ; and after a while his contender finds himself at the other end of life with time gone, mercy gone, a rejected Christ gone, a grieved Spirit gone, and an insulted God gone. There will be men and women in hell who never expected to be there ! They let one sun too many rise and set on them.

If you could see yourself shortly on a dying bed with the doctor standing by your pale form with his hand on your pulse, with no hope written on his countenance, and if you could hear him in the hall say, "He'll not live through the night," and if you could see yourself at eleven o'clock as the death dew begins to break out on your brow, as your heart freezes, and your feet grow cold. If you could see that crepe on the door-knob, and hear the chorus singing, "Lead Kindly Light" and "Nearer My God To Thee," no one would have to try to get you to do what you ought to do.

The devil lets men hear the gospel and even encourages them to listen to it with approval ; but he tells them to wait until they have accomplished certain things before they obey it. He tells them that they had better not be swept with excitement and that they might regret it if they take a stand. He tells them that they wouldn't hold out and that if they take the step they will not be sure that they are right. And because Satan constantly makes these suggestions, men harden their hearts and drift farther.

We have all heard the old legend which says that once a conference was held in hell, at which time the devil presided. He is about to send his agents to and fro throughout the earth, and is asking them what their messages will be. One said, "I

will tell the people that the Bible is not true," and Satan declined to send him on his mission because the Bible is its own strong proof; and every Christian life is an unanswerable argument for the Book.

Another said, "I will tell the people that Christ is not Divine." But Satan said, "What folly ! His prophecies telling of His coming, their exact fulfillment, His gracious life, His wonderful preaching, His tremendous truths, His great parables, His divine power, His indescribable death, His powerful resurrection, His marvelous ascension, the multitudes He has blessed—all of these prove his deity," and the messenger did not go upon his errand.

A third said, "I will tell the people to do their best and leave the rest to God. He is always merciful." But Satan said, "How useless, for every man will know that his best does not satisfy his own best judgment and all to whom you speak will know that their best is so faulty that it could never stand in the presence of a just God," and he, too, is set aside.

Finally one said, "I shall go and tell the people that the Bible is true, that Christ is divine, that the one means to be saved is by the obedience of the gospel of the crucified and risen Lord, but I will tell them to wait and think the matter over, and to look forward toward a more convenient season." And Satan sent him upon the mission, which he seems to be fulfilling ever since.



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