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MISSIONARY REVIVALIST SELECTIONS

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THE AWFUL SIN OF IMMODESTY By Elbert Dodd

Yes, to be immodest is a sin. First of all, to be immodest, one must break God's commandment and law.

Before Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, they were clothed with light. The beasts and animals were never clothed. But when Adam and Eve sinned, they lost the wonderful holy light that had clothed them, and they were naked. So God made coats of skin and clothed them. "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them. (Genesis 3:21)

The devil has always desired to bring man on the level with the beast, and the carnal nature born in man is the beastly nature; it is not subject to the law of God neither can be. Carnality is an enemy of God and hates God and is rebellious against God.

A sign of rebellion is for one to run over the laws of God. And as mankind drifts from God, he drifts toward the beastly way of life. First of all, he desires to do away with all restraint, and one of the first steps is to try to destroy his or her sense of dignity and get away from Godlikeness. Man was created in the image of God. Modest clothing is a sign of dignity and submission to the way and will of God.

Another sign of rebellion against God is for a woman to cut her hair and dress like men. Even though the judgments of God are pronounced upon both acts, women continue to do it. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." (Deuteronomy 22:5) This would include slacks, blue jeans, tight men's type trousers or any other garment that pertaineth to a man.

The next sign of rebellion is to drift to undressing or wearing clothes that are so suggestive that there is not much difference between wearing them and not wearing any clothes. God has spoken on this matter, and God's people, the true Christians, will heed God's Word.

In the fifth chapter of Mark we have the picture of a man with an unclean spirit, and out of his right mind, but Jesus passed his way and commanded the devils out of him. and when the devils were gone out of him, he was "Clothed and in his right mind." Notice when he was in his right man he was fully clothed.

Notice further the Holy Scriptures: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." (I Timothy 2:9-10) "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (I Peter 3:3-4) "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance." (I Peter 1:14) If God should have spoken it only once, it would have been enough for any Christian, but God has spoken many times plainly, and many, many times by implication.

The above is enough for any and all true Christians. But the question is asked "What do you mean by modesty?" We Christians simply mean for both men and women to wear clothes to properly cover their bodies, so they will not be exposed in any way that is suggestive. A girl or woman can wear a dress and it can be so tight that it is immodest -- any form of clothing that is so tight that it is suggestive is immodest.

Christian mothers, it is high time that some wake up to the fact that your girls are growing up, and that we live in an evil day and an adulterous generation, and that mothers are responsible for their girls' souls and the souls of the young men that might look at their immodesty and sin in their hearts.

Dresses that are so short, that when a girl or woman sits their knees are exposed, are immodest. To be modest a lady will not expose herself until there might be even an immoral suggestion, and the exposing of the knees is that very thing. Also Christian girls that feel that they are young ladies and all Christian women in America should wear hose, and a form of hose that one can tell that they have hose on. These tight dresses and short dresses are one of the many steps of rebellion and will lead decent women to wearing of clothes that pertain to men, and shorts.

The immodest craze also breaks out among men. The devil desires to make beasts out of God's human creation, and Christian men will also wear modest apparel. Clothes that are too thin, or too tight, or too short of sleeves and no shirts are all of the devil, and Christian men MUST also flee from this awful sin.

To be immodest is to show our hate for God and God's laws and to show our disrespect for mankind. CHRISTIAN, WAKE UP! We cannot afford to drift with the tide; we are Christians,

we are God's children; we are not beasts, neither does a true Christian have the beastly nature. PREACHERS, WAKE UP! Cry aloud! Spare not! I believe God is grieved with these modern ungodly hair dos and scanty, immodest attire. Therefore, we must take our stand.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, here I take my stand for God, for God's laws and God's decent, God-fearing people.

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A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"Where you find persons wearing little ornaments, set them down as rotten at heart. If they could they would go all lengths at display if they were not constrained by other considerations. It is astonishing how many ways there are in which these little things show the pride and rottenness of heart. It is because they are little things that they show the character so clearly. Vanity shows itself in little things and gives full evidence that it has possession of the soul. Little adornments show you what you are in the sight of God." -- Charles G. Finney.

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VERTIGO HOLINESS

"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (II Thess. 2:10-12).

Vertigo is an experience in which the pilot of an aircraft is confused about his relationship to the earth or to other objects in the sky. It is an error of illusion in space. In other words he doesn't know which way is up. It may occur most any time but more often occurs in fog or darkness. The instruments on his plane tell him his position but in vertigo he disbelieves the instruments. He may think he is climbing when he is falling or he may think he is on a straight course when he is making a ninety degree turn. Some have actually flown their planes upside down while thinking they were right side up!

In the spiritual realm there are many professed holiness folk who evidently are experiencing vertigo. There are many who still use the language of holiness, and think they are old-fashioned, and on the road to Heaven, while all the time they are worldly in their dress, conduct, attitudes, desires and entertainments. The Bible condemns them, but they, like the pilot in vertigo, distrust or mis-read the instrument that alone could bring them safely out of the fog. Recently a pastor from another denomination asked me about the possibility of joining our church and wanted to know something of the requirements and the opportunities that our church had to offer. He declared that if God led him to join he would conform to our standards, etc. But it was evident from the appearance of his wife and daughters that the standards of our church were not convictions with him, or if they had been at one time they were greatly neglected now. I could not give him much encouragement because his willingness to live up to our standards was based on the offer of an opportunity in our church. Obviously his adjustment would be a matter of convenience

rather than conviction. He seemed greatly troubled about the worldliness and lack of holiness preaching in the church he was affiliated with and at the same time his wife and daughters were having their hair trimmed (cut) at the beauty shop and they wore practically no sleeves in their dresses. He felt that he was an old-fashioned holiness preacher, while the plain revealed word of God declared that he was falling far short.

Some are so vertigo as to think that life consists in the abundance of material things. They will compromise their convictions and sell their souls rather than forsake a good salary and comfortable parsonage. Some in leadership talk and sing about sacrifice but are not willing to practice it. They have long ago silenced the stall warning signal in their conscience until they can be at ease while others suffer. They have so obligated themselves for the comforts and luxuries of life that they barely pay their tithes while others on "hard scrabble" must about give their all to see the work go. They have forgotten that "they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." (I Tim. 6:9). The dollar has become the chief idol of our day and many of God's people are in danger of falling a prey to its influence. Paul warned against this form of vertigo when he wrote of those who "supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." "But godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Tim. 6:5-6).

Vertigo holiness stoops to rationalism instead of believing the inspired word of God. They have rationalized Bible standards until they now have the sensation that they are no longer condemned because of television, ball games, church socials, rings, tight dresses, short skirts, make-up, bobbed hair, tobacco, etc. Their next step is to question the virgin birth of Christ and the Divine inspiration of the scriptures.

Some now have repudiated the old-fashioned requirements of confessing and forsaking sin. Careless altar work has led to a shallow "believism" that gives the seeker only an empty profession. As a result they do not give up the world and they have no hunger for real heart holiness. The sad result is that consecration takes the place of sanctification and the "old man" lives on in the heart. Vertigo!

Some good men who now find themselves surrounded by an apostate church, with all its wicked innovations and its connection with the National Council of Churches and its acceptance of the Revised Standard Version (Perversion) of the Bible are in the fog as to what to do. They once felt condemned about it all but now they have "adjusted." In their state of vertigo they now excuse themselves for supporting the ungodly leadership and worldly program by saying that they are no more responsible for the way the holy money that goes to the budgets of worldly churches is used than they are for the taxes that are collected by the government. The faithful warnings of the scriptural gyro and compass to "neither be partaker of other men's sins:" (I Tim. 5:22) and "He that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (II John 11) and "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness: and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14), does not penetrate the stupor of their misplaced loyalty.

Is there no cure for spiritual vertigo? Is there no way out of the fog? Authorities advise pilots in a vertigo situation to disregard their sensations and rely completely on their flight

instruments and they will bring them safely home. So, in spiritual vertigo, one must disregard his feelings, the opinions and conflicting voices of a confused world and rely completely on the Bible and it alone will bring him safely home! It has safely landed many a storm-tossed pilgrim on the sunny banks of sweet deliverance. Oh, cling to the blessed Book! The Bible alone offers a ray of hope in a world of despair, a solid foundation in a world of decay. It points a sin-sick humanity to Christ, the only Redeemer. Thank God for the Bible, the only real cure for spiritual vertigo.

"This holy book I'd rather own
Than all the gold and gems,
That e'er in monarch's coffers shone,
Than all their diadems.

Nay, were the seas one Chrysolite,
The earth one golden ball,
And diadems all the stars of night,
This Book outweighs them all.

Ah, no, the soul ne'er found relief
In glittering hoards of wealth;
Gems dazzle not the eyes of grief,
Gold cannot purchase health.

But here a blessed balm appears
To heal the deepest woe,
And those who read this book in tears
Their tears shall cease to flow."

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DOOM AT NOONDAY

By E. E. Michael

PSALM 91:6b . . . "Nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday." "Destruction that wasteth!" What a thought! Wasting away, deterioration. God abhors and condemns waste, yet we see it everywhere, and it has always been since the Fall of Man.

WASTE. What a descriptive word for this so called enlightened age. Waste in the national system; in the international, the school, the church, the home. Billions for space exploration, billions more for foreign aid. Billions for liquor, tobacco, fashions, sports and entertainments of all kinds; all of which spells deterioration, degradation, stagnation and damnation. Our jails are full, our prisons are overflowing, and the insane asylums are often having to be enlarged to take care of the ever-increasing masses flowing into them.

Look at medical science with its vast facilities, and almost unlimited resources. Hundreds of millions spent each year in laboratory and research work, and yet, disease like a gory monster

stalking the nation, leaving its fearful and appalling toll of sick, maimed and dead. We are sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind." THE DESTRUCTION THAT WASTETH AT NOONDAY.

Behold the march of nations in dispensational history! Babylon, Greece, Persia, Rome. These nations, Godless, paganistic, and ultra-idolatrous, plunged from their lofty heights of pride, arrogancy and self-esteem to their eternal ruin under the wrath of God. Now hidden in the dust of the ages. DOOM AT NOONDAY!

In our own nation, the Supreme Court capitulating to godless atheism has ruled Bible reading and prayers out of the schools of our land. The move is on to remove the words, "In God We Trust" from the American coin. Also the words, "Under God" from our Constitution. It is understood that two-thirds of the three point program to put our Armed Forces under the United Nations has been accomplished. The ONE WORLD movement is fast reaching its goal. The continuation of the Ecumenical Council in Rome in September of this year in our opinion, will bring the merging of Catholicism and Protestantism closer to the Satanic goal. A "one world church" will, we believe, be consummated in the False Prophet under the reign of the Antichrist. The foundations of Ecclesiasticism are fast crumbling beneath our feet. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Television made its landing, established its beach heads, and now flies the black flag of hell over ninety percent or better of the homes of America. Upon its entrance, the giant movie industry faced with the loss of hundreds of thousands from its audiences, and hundreds of millions of dollars declared, "We will throw decency and modesty overboard to cope with Television. Short wearing is as common as breathing. Home religion, the family altar is about extinct. Violence fills the earth. A most shocking and frightful spirit of defiance is in the air. Surely the spirit of the Anti-Christ doth "already work."

Accumulated waste in the intestinal tract of the human body, according to Medical Science causes deterioration, stagnation, disease and death. So it is in the national system, the church and the home. The tapeworm of modernism, liberalism and apostasy is eating away, and destroying the vitals, until Spirituality is at low ebb. Jesus said, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? Luke 18:8 Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. II Tim. 3:13. "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12 "Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the Son of Perdition." II Thess. 2:3

Spiritual waste and decay throughout the holiness movement. Standards of holiness repudiated and scorned at. Jewelry, bobbed-hair, short wearing, mixed bathing, ball games, television; all, and much more have replaced the Holy Ghost fire.

Our little Zion is not immune from the fierce and blatant threat of the invasion of this dread waste matter of hell. We must earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." The only way to be ready when Jesus comes is to keep ready. The story is told of the little boy who observed a very beautiful little stone in the bed of the brook which flowed near his home. Every day he would go down to the brook and gaze upon his beloved stone as it glistened in the water under the light of the sun. He loved this stone so until one day he decided he would take it

out of the water and take it to his home for safe keeping. Ever so often he would go to his room and take his stone from its place and behold its beauty. But one day upon viewing it he found it had lost its luster. Imagine his disappointment and grief. But his better judgment reminded him that it had shone its best when under the water; that its absence from the bed of the flowing brook had made it lose its brilliancy. So he took it back and deposited it, in or as near the same place as he had originally found it. In a few days it regained its versatile beauty. O, let us abide constantly in Him. "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

God has verily promised, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and fortress: My God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust. His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. Psa. 91:1-6. O people of our beloved Zion, and kindred brethren take courage, be true. Then let us, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: Thy sons shall come from afar, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. Isaiah 60:15. This is the thousand years of peace on the earth. Our Millennium is soon to appear! O glory to the Lamb!

Jesus said, "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." He will make His sanctified ones "Kings and priests unto God," and, "The saints shall rule the earth." No we are not afraid Khrushchev, Fido, Mao or any other will take over. We ourselves under God and at His appointment will take over. O Hallelujah, and to Him be glory! Hush! Methinks I hear in the far distance the trumpet sound. Far away, but O so near. The heavens are bending, the skies are yielding. Hark, listen, my soul catches the strains of heavenly music. Ah yes, the Son of Man cometh and all the holy angels with Him. What a meeting that will be. Listen once again, "But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." II Thess. 4:13-18. Yes, the waste matter of hell is hastening the world to its awful doom, but God is preparing his church for the glorious rapture. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

By Mrs. Paul King,
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THE MISSION BELLS

The late afternoon sun cast long willowy shadows over the green hillside and a soft, warm breeze carelessly kissed and played with the fluttering, quaking cottonwood leaves. Young Eli, his hands already bronzed and callused from both the sun's hot rays and hard work, gazed over the large flock of sheep and new lambs with both pride and admiration. Only a few months ago he had been told by his kind father and mother that he was now a young man and could, therefore, herd the flock of beautiful sheep: A job he had long waited for; for only those with a brave heart and unfailing courage were allowed this task. All too frequently were the young sheep and lambs attacked by some wild, ferocious and blood-thirsty beast

He watched as the sun and wind caused the long shadows to dance over the green pasture land and saw several brightly colored birds dart gracefully after an insect, then soar off into the paling heavens. All about him sprawled the verdant green pasture land except on his left, where was a dense thicket of scrub cottonwood, tanglewood and bushes of most every description. From there many of the blood curdling wild beast cries came and he must carefully guard the sheep throughout the night. The thought of approaching night and new adventure sent a thrill through his young body. No longer was he afraid but, like David, the Psalmist of the Bible, he trusted in the Lord and never once, since he had found the Christ of the missionaries' faith, had any harm befallen either him or his father's sheep.

The sun, throwing one last golden kiss to the meadow, sleepily tucked her head behind the western horizon and darkness settled in, both awe inspiring and mysterious. Eli loved this time of evening for every cricket, frog, toad and night bird seemed to come alive and awaken to keep him company in his night vigil.

The sheep had settled down peacefully and, by the soft sound of their breathing, the young lad knew they were resting. His heart was meditating and musing on the Scriptures he had read that day on the hillsides when a loud, shrill laugh broke in unannounced upon his heart musings.

"That's just what we'll do!" a loud voice said as another continued, "You got it now? All of you?"

"Go over it again," another said. "We want everybody to fully understand, and no mistakes! Do you hear? No one here a traitor, is there? Too bad if there is one," the harsh voice continued.

"There'll be no mission bells ringing this Sunday morning," a shrill voice laughed. "That silly missionary family will wish they never had come to our land. My father's angry with them since Mother has turned to their faith and God. She burned all our little gods and idols and doesn't even act the same since she got saved -as the Missionaries call it."

"No harm to the Missionaries," a big voice ordered. "Do you understand? Only burn down the church house so they can't have services any more."

"We got you," several voices came echoing through the dense thicket. "Twelve o'clock tonight! Everybody in his place! Now let's get back to the village or we'll be missed and cause suspicion."

Eli's heart raced within him like a propelled motor and he knew he must do something, but what? To leave the sheep would not be safe, for already the wild beasts were stalking the land, and not to leave them meant certain destruction to the newly constructed mission station. This must never; never happen! No more would he hear the soft, musical peal of the bells when evening came and a clear, rightly directed breeze wafted the melodic notes to his happy ears. They even seemed to relax and calm the sheep! A tear fell unashamed to the good earth upon which he sat. Hastily he fell to his knees and, with child-like faith and fervency of spirit, he entrusted the entire sheep herd to his Heavenly Father's keeping as he took to the hills and through the thicket to the village.

A small, yellow, half starved dog barked loudly as he entered the darkened village but this didn't stop him. Frantically he raced along the edge of the black huts until he came to the Village Chief's house. He knew if he could speak with him the Mission would be saved, for the Chief was almost persuaded that the Missionaries' religion was the right way. He had forsaken his old life of sin, and he, too, had burned all his many idols and wooden gods and was seeking to find the Lord whom Eli, his father and mother, had already found and loved.

He tapped ever so lightly on the bamboo hut, whispering as he did so, "Mumbami! Mumbami! Let me in."

"Yes," a sleepy voice finally answered from within. "What is it?"

"It is I Eli!" the lad answered softly. "Please hurry, Mumbami! It is urgent!"

After he was safely seated on the dirt floor of the Village Chief's hut, Eli quickly related the happenings of the early evening and, before departing he urged strongly, tearfully:

"Go at once to the Mission, Mumbami! Get my father and the other villagers. Tonight, at twelve o'clock they plan to burn down everything about the Mission Station -- except the missionaries' house Now hurry! I must get back to father's sheep else I would watch and prevent this."

"Good. Very good, son!" the big, brawny chief said as he lovingly patted the young lad on his broadening shoulders. "Have no fear. The Mission will not be burned and the bells will ring as usual tomorrow morning -- and each evening. We shall catch the culprits. Now be on your way and . . . and . . . pray that I too may find this wonderful Christ, under Whose wings your folks, you and so many of my people have come to trust. I want Him, son! This is the way!" and silently, noiselessly he slipped through the doorway as Eli ran to the village edge and back to his sheep herd.

The soft breathing of the sheep assured the boy that all had been well in his departure and he realized anew that his Heavenly Father tenderly watched over him and the flock at all times. He heard a shrill cry from the thicket and knew, as it was answered from the hill above him, that at least two shiny black panthers were close by. His faith reached through the darkness to an unseen, but much felt Presence, and he was not afraid. He who had set bounds to the ocean and rivers would set bounds--for the wild beasts of prey. The sheep, sensing the trust and calmness of their shepherd, rested peacefully the entire night and, when morning dawned, clear, fair and bright, Eli's heart was lifted in praise to God. He raised both hands heavenward and let the tears fall in warm streams down his cheeks as the mission bells rang joyously out across the valley, calling all the believers to early morning prayer. Reverently he fell to his knees as his father came through the thicket clearing and joined him.

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I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE

By Genevieve Thompson

When I was a child and a young girl, I would not refuse to take a dare. Many were the hair-raising and absurd things I did -- or attempted -- because my friends (and enemies) knew this weakness. I still suffer some severe and permanent injuries which have plagued me all my life as the result of dangerous and foolish stunts performed in my youth.

But salvation changed all that for me. I found other ways more pleasing to God in which I could show courage and stamina. God showed me that I could dare anything for Him. He has dared me to trust Him in all kinds of circumstances and conditions, and I have found I can safely do so.

The devil has dared me many times, too. There have been times when I dared to be slack in daily devotions, in accepting or walking in new light, in implicit obedience to the Spirit of God. But I am not proud of those times; they were always times of defeat. And a long time ago I took a firm grip on my own collar and gave myself a firm shake and promised myself and God there would be no more of that. For there is one thing I dare not do. I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE.

I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE BECAUSE I AM A MEMBER, THEREFORE A REPRESENTATIVE, OF A CHURCH WITH VERY HIGH STANDARDS, in a society which resents those standards to a great degree. Nothing so delights that society as the repudiation of those standards by one who once upheld them. Therefore, if I backslide I bring reproach upon the church I love.

I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE BECAUSE THERE ARE THOSE IN THE CHURCH WHOM I HAVE PRAYED FOR, AND WITH, THROUGH THE YEARS. My life has contributed something to their lives. We are all members of the body of Christ, and if one member suffers, the whole body suffers. I dare not destroy the trust my Christian friends place in me.

I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE BECAUSE THERE ARE SINNERS -- MY FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES, AND NEIGHBORS -- WHO BELIEVE IN MY EXPERIENCE AND HAVE FAITH IN ME. If I backslide, they will lose faith, not only in me, but perhaps even in God.

I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE BECAUSE I HAVE LOVED ONES STILL OUT OF THE ARK OF SAFETY, WHO ARE MY DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY TO PRAY FOR. A few years ago someone near to me was battling the devil alone in her home. She had an ungodly husband and an unsaved teen-age son who cursed, swore, sneered at her, and made the home miserable in general. Her teen-age daughter professed salvation but could be counted on, usually, to add her carnal petulance to the boiling pot of their home life.

One day, driven beyond the breaking point, this godly mother cried out to her family, "You had all better stop and take a look at us. You had better ease the pressure on me a little. You had better help me stay saved. If I should backslide, this whole family will end in hell." Her family was deeply shocked, but the truth of her words went home. They knew that what she said was true. In their hearts they realized that all of them were depending on her prayers. Unsaved husbands, wives, parents, children, brothers, sisters should tremble lest their devilish opposition overcome the Christians in their homes. These may be God's prayer warriors for their own souls' salvation.

If I am backslidden, I will not only be unable to pray for the souls of my loved ones, but I will not even desire to do so. Not long ago a young friend said to me, in terrible distress, "Pray for my mother. She once had a genuine experience with God but she is backslidden now. My father has never been saved, my brothers and sisters are living in deep sin, but Mother is completely unconcerned. She is lulled to sleep by pleasure and worldliness while her family plunges down the road to hell." I shuddered at that awful picture and realized once more I dare not backslide. I dare not fail the souls of my own loved ones.

I DARE NOT BACKSLIDE BECAUSE I MYSELF AM AN IMMORTAL SOUL, ETERNITY BOUND. I have a great responsibility to my church, to my brothers and sisters in Christ, to my unsaved friends and neighbors, and to my unsaved loved ones; but my most solemn responsibility is to myself. In the final analysis, I only can determine my own eternal destiny. I can pray for others and do all in my power to encourage them to spend eternity with God, but I cannot force one of them to do so. On the other hand, no man on earth nor devil in hell can cheat me out of heaven. I can cheat myself and that is why I dare not backslide. -- Reprint from Sunday School Messenger.

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AT A CAMP MEETING 150 YEARS AGO

Peter Cartwright, the preacher, wrote the following account:

"There were two young ladies, sisters, lately from down East. They had been provided for on the ground in the tent of a very religious sister of theirs. They were very fashionably dressed. I think they must have had, in rings, ear-rings, bracelets, gold chains, lockets, etc., at least one or two hundred dollars' worth of jewelry about their persons. The altar was crowded to overflowing with mourners and these young ladies were very solemn. They met me at the stand, and asked permission to sit down inside it. I told them that if they would promise me to pray to God for religion, they might take a seat there. They were too deeply affected to be idle lookers-on, and

when I got them seated in the stand I called them, and urged them to pray, and I called others to my aid. They became deeply engaged; and about midnight they were both powerfully converted. They rose to their feet and gave some very triumphant shouts, and then very deliberately took off their gold chains, ear rings, lockets, etc., and handed them to me, saying, "We have no more use for these idols. If religion is the glorious good thing you have represented it to be, it throws these idols into eternal shade.' "

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BUTTON UP YOUR LIP

If you heard a bit of gossip
Whether false or whether true,
Be it of a friend or stranger,
Let me tell you what to do:
Button up your lip securely
Lest the tale you should repeat
Bring sorrow unto someone
Whose life is not so sweet.

If you know of one who yielded
To temptation long ago,
But whose life has since been blameless,
Let me tell you what to do:
Button up your lip securely,
His the secret; God alone
Has the right to sit in judgment,
Treat it as to you unknown.

Sometimes life is filled with troubles.
Oft its burdens are severe.
Do not make it any harder
By a careless word or sneer.
Button up your lip securely
'Gainst the words that bring a tear
But be swift with words of comfort,
Words of praise and words of cheer.

-- Author Unknown

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THE END