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MISSIONARY REVIVALIST SELECTIONS

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THE MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHURCH
By Elbert Dodd

Many modern preachers and Christians try to tell us that the Church will reform and convert the world, and through the Church, the millennium will be ushered in. This sounds wonderful and good, but the only trouble with all this is that it is not taught in the Holy Scriptures and is not the truth. First, the Bible does not teach this; second, it would rob Jesus of His glory and His place and work.

The Church's first mission is to preach the gospel to every creature. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15-16)

Secondly, the Church's mission is to teach all nations to observe whatsoever He has commanded us. "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)

As God's "called out ones," we must go -- we must preach -- we must teach -- we must send. All true Christians are missionary minded and will do all in one's power to take and to send the wonderful gospel. The gospel " . . . is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." (Romans 1:16)

And we all must say "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise." (Romans 1:14)

Jesus commands today "Go ye!" We must not fail Him and lost souls. "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:11-15)

Next, the mission and responsibility of God's "called out ones" -- the Church -- is to ". . . to take out of them a people for his name." In other words, get a bride ready for the Bridegroom's return. Not reform or convert the world, but cooperate with Jesus in getting the Bride ready for His return.

Jesus will come for His bride. Then He will come back to this earth and settle accounts with the devil and clean up this old world and usher in the Millennium. And He, Jesus, will solve the problems of this old world. "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:3-4)

I feel the night cometh. (John 9:4) We must work while it is day. Work, pray and watch. (Matthew 24:42; Matthew 26:41)

O Church of the living God, the time is short. We must be at our Father's business. Pulling them out of the fire. Keeping ready and helping others to be ready. Helping prepare the Bride. Behold He cometh! Be ye therefore ready.

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EDITORIAL

By Spencer Johnson

EMPTY HOLINESS

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matt. 5:13)

In the Bible salt is the symbol of the good and true while leaven is a symbol of that which is evil, impermanent, fermenting and decaying. Under the Levitical law every sacrifice was to be seasoned with salt. Nothing that partook of corruption was to be brought into the service of God neither that which was insipid or tasteless.

While we live under a different dispensation, it is still true that a false, insipid, tasteless, corrupted and empty profession of holiness is as detestable in the sight of God as the salt that has lost its savour.

If we would be pleasing and useful to God our conversation must be wholesome and holy. Peter says we are to be "in all holy conversation and godliness." Paul says, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt." (Col. 4:6) Salt -- not mustard or vinegar. Some people seem to be given to sharpness and bitterness of speech. May God help us that there shall be nothing in our speech that is destructive to peace and contrary to edification. If our speech is seasoned with salt then it will not be insipid, tasteless and useless. "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Eph. 4:29) "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." (Eph. 5:4) Jesus said that men shall give account in the day of judgment for every idle word. (Matt. 12:36) An idle word is a word that has no errand to accomplish, no work to do. Let us take heed to our words lest the salt of holiness be lacking therein.

Our sacrifice of praise must not be lacking in salt. How much there is that is sickening and meaningless in our singing. Much of the singing of the modern quartets of this day is nothing but froth and frenzy affecting the feet but never reaching the heart. There is another type of singing in some churches which is equally as empty. It is dubbed by some as "Long haired music," because the men musicians of this type are noticeable for their lack of hair cuts. (Possibly they spend so much time practicing that they do not have time to visit the barber shop.) In this type of music the choir must be just "so, so." There are always artists who take up much time and bore the congregation running the scale and warbling their vocal gymnastics so that nobody understands for sure just what they are singing. In some churches their programs are inevitable at Christmas, Easter and most any special occasion, it is all a hollow mockery for God said, we are to sing with the spirit and with the understanding also. The old songs of redemption, sung in the spirit with grace and sense have blest millions in the past and will continue to do so wherever people sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord.

How much prayer is empty because it has lost its seasoning? Far too many people are mechanical, cold and lifeless in their praying. Many prayers are written out and read and many more are made to be heard of men. Such praying does not reach the throne of grace. The Pharisee's sanctimonious prayer rose no higher than his head but the poor old Publican's cry of "God be merciful to me a sinner" pierced the heavens and touched the heart of God.

The sacrifice of giving must be seasoned with salt. Most people give grudgingly of necessity. They figure their tithe right down to the decimal point of a gnat's eyebrow and never go beyond. They never ask themselves, "Would I place this little amount in the hand of my Saviour if He took up the collection?" How little need there would be for the Church of Jesus Christ to make these frantic appeals for money to carry on her work if people were absolutely unselfish in their giving!

Multitudes of people will spend more money on themselves at this Christmas season than they gave to missions all year long. Others will feed their dogs and cats the choicest of food,

including steak and gravy while their pastors and wives, and children suffer need. It would behoove some folk to make their giving according to their income lest God make their income according to their giving.

Salt was used in covenant making. It conveys the thought of fidelity and permanency. Our relations with God must have a permanence about them. One of the curses of our day is empty, false consecration. There are many who are constantly up and down and in and out because they did not die out to self. They play at consecrating themselves to God. Any consecration that is not an absolute surrender and does not denote an eternal transaction is a mockery to God. There is nothing that is temporal in our commitments to God. All our dealings with Him are for eternity.

True holiness" like salt is valuable as a preservative. Again and again in the history of the race a few men filled with righteousness have kept back the judgments of God from falling upon the earth. Ten men who had the salt of righteousness in them would have saved the cities of the plain, for God had promised Abraham that He would not destroy those cities if He could find within them ten righteous men. It was said that the Wesleys saved England from bloody revolution. Jesus called His disciples the salt of the earth because humanity is so liable to corruption. The corruption that is in the world through lust is rapidly increasing. The spirit of lawlessness is seen on every hand. In many of the high schools of the great cities of the nation policemen are necessary to patrol the cafeterias to keep the students from crashing the furniture and the windows. In one school twenty squad cars of policemen are needed every noon hour. The causes of decay in the ages past have been moral causes. Is it not strange that there is little alarm in the churches at the weakening of moral fiber, at the growth of the spirit of luxury, the insensate love of pleasure, the lust of power and of money, the drunkenness of the people, the loss of reverence, the disregard for the Sabbath, the breaking of marriage vows, and the general indifference that prevails to the claims of God? These are the things that ought to alarm the church and the nation. These things will assuredly lead to the decay and downfall of this nation. Righteousness and righteousness alone exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. The course of humanity as some seem to think is not always "upward and onward." All around us decay and corruption are at work, and the only possible way in which putrefaction and disintegration can be slowed is by the preserving and purifying presence of men and women who are filled with the Holy Ghost.

There will be no world wide revival until Jesus comes but if the people of God will not lose their savour, they can be a witness and help prepare a people for His name. There are men, employed in large workshops with scores of other men, whose lives are so pure and pungent that the tongues of the foul-mouthed are stopped in their presence. Their lives have been so inspiring that they have won others to Christ. A holiness that shuts itself up in a cloister is of no value to the world. Salt to purify must be brought into close contact with the object it would benefit. It exists for the sole purpose of imparting its savoring and purifying presence to that which without it would be corrupt. A pastor and a church that does not get out and make calls and continually seek the lost is a nonprogressive pastor and a dying church. Holiness is an aggressive force. In it lives a passion for propagating itself. We exist to convict the world. We are to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them." It is only in this way that we may experience being among the blessed who are "persecuted for righteousness' sake."

A saltless professor of holiness is one who has gone back to the earthly, the worldly, the carnal. The heavenly element is no longer preeminent; the salt has lost its savour. Instead of salting the world the world has polluted them. When a church loses its pungency what is there to distinguish it from the world it exists to purify?

Salt is utterly separable from that upon which it acts. If one puts a little salt in his sugar he immediately detects its presence by its sharp pungency. It cannot be hid; it stands out clear and hard. Its purity is the secret of its power. The church must be like salt, separate, isolated, exclusive, otherwise she will utterly fail to accomplish her mission. The church can only save those in the world as it maintains its separation from the world. For this reason the insistence on separation runs throughout the word of God. When a church permits its members to indulge in the pleasures of the world, such as television, ball games, bowling alleys, skating rinks, rodeos, and races; and allows the wearing of rings, beads, make-up and immodest attire, when it permits its women to cut their hair and wear slacks, pedal pushers and skin-tight skimpy skirts then that church has lost the identity that once characterized the people of God.

Many professed holiness churches have become assimilated by the world, and learned to speak the world's language, to justify the world's morality, and to echo the world's phrases and ape its fashions. Empty holiness permits a church to eat and drink in the house of prayer and at the world's table without the world becoming aware of any protest or any discomfort or any fear. Such a church instead of awakening consciences puts them to sleep, instead of exposing the people's sins flatters them into excusing or forgetting them, and has falsified the first law of its existence. What use or place has such a church on the face of the earth? It has murdered the very conscience which it was created to sustain. It has forfeited the very power of remedy from sin which it alone held in trust. It has poisoned the wells of human hope. Religion without the Holy Ghost is weak and despicable. False religion arouses the contempt of the world and is a great stumbling block to our time. Your influence in your home, in your church and place of business depends upon the measure of the salt of the Holy Ghost which you possess. If you have little of the Spirit you have little influence; there is little power in your prayers, little boldness in your witnessing and little fruit of your labor. There is nothing that we need to guard more jealously in our lives than the pungent purifying power of the Holy Ghost. May God deliver us from empty holiness! We may keep the form of godliness. Our name may stay on the church roll. We may still take communion. We may continue in religious activities. We may still bend our knees in prayer. Yet with all this Jesus Christ may write over our lives, "Ichabod." "The glory is departed."

Someone who reads these lines may have lost his savour. The romance is gone from your experience. You were once heavenly but become earthly; you once lived in the power of the Spirit but now walk after the flesh. There is One who will forgive all the failures of your past if you will turn again to Him. "Today, as the Holy Ghost saith, today, if you will hear His voice harden not your hearts."

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HOLINESS IN THE HOME

By Walter E. Isenhour

I do not know of a better place in the world to put holiness into practice than in the home. Real Bible holiness experienced in the hearts of parents, and lived before the children, will do more for the peace and happiness of the home than all the games that may be played, and all the entertainments that may be given, and all the toys that may be bought, and everything else that the world offers.

However, we know that a reasonable amount of material things for the welfare of the home is necessary. Maybe some innocent and harmless sports, and some clean games, may not be out of place in the home. We know that we can't put the heads of older people on the shoulders of children, therefore they have to be treated as children. They must be taught right; must be rightly controlled; must be loved and taken care of; must be prayed for and educated. There's lots that figures in the lives of a family that is necessary and uplifting; but true holiness is the finest and most profitable of all that adds up to the sweetness and blessedness of the home.

The home may not be beautified by worldly and material possessions, but it can be enriched by Bible salvation. As children grow up into manhood and womanhood, and go out from a home of prayer, love, peace, where holiness has been the paramount possession and blessing, they are mighty apt to be noble and great citizens and Christians wherever they go and wherever they live. It is so different from that of growing up in a home of worldliness, prayerlessness, sin and wickedness. Yes, it is quite different from growing up in a home where the parents smoke, drink beer and liquor, gossip, use profane language, curse, and leave God and the Christian religion out of everything.

Naturally, growing up in a good Christian home a holiness home -- makes the very best environment for the family. The Holy Bible is the main Guide Book; good, clean songs bless the voices of the parents and children; clean and wholesome books and literature feed the minds and hearts of such a home. Money is wisely spent not to curse the home, but to bless it. Then the church and Sunday School plays a major roll in the activities and work of the holiness home. It is a known fact that a good Christian home, and good churches and Sunday Schools, don't make for crime, wreck and failure. All but this. Hence the great and vital importance of a Christian home. Yes, the home where the holiness of God reigns and rules.

I'm not speaking of a home of heavenly perfection. That belongs to God in Heaven and the translated saints of all the ages, along with the pure, sweet angels. Even in the best and most godly homes on earth there will naturally be some mistakes made. Holiness doesn't take all human weaknesses away. The devil hates Christian homes. Holiness is indeed very offensive to him. He does all he can to hinder godly, holiness people, especially holiness homes. He will persecute, attack, hate and falsify Christian parents, children, and the youth of such homes. However, praise God in spite of all this God loves, cares for and protects His people who hold to His wonderful truth, possess His grace, pray to Him continually, and are yielded to His blessed and holy will, O that we had millions of holiness homes over the earth today! Crime would be abated as in no other way; our streets and highways would be far more safer for us to travel; jails and penitentiaries could be largely dispensed with; strife and hatred among men and nations could be driven out and away, and sweet peace could largely cover the earth. This will take place in its fullness when Jesus comes back to rule and reign in His fullness on earth. Hallelujah!

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'Twas the Sunday before Christmas

'Twas the Sunday before Christmas,
When all through the day,
Not many creatures were stirring,
In the old-fashioned way.

On the lakes, on the land,
On the Blue Coral Sea,
They were dancing and prancing
In wild revelry.

In the air-ways they traveled
At fast rates of speed,
Scorning the gospel,
And giving no heed.

To the real Spirit of Christmas,
They are totally blind.
The Santa Claus Spirit
Has captured their mind.

But deep in the hearts
Of the remnant "few"
Glow the real light of Christmas,
The "Holy" and "True."

So, onward, dear Christian,
The true and the brave,
We'll follow the Christ
Who conquered the grave.

We'll preach His good Word,
And live the good life,
Then to Heaven we'll go,
Where there's no sin or strife.

-- By E. E. Michael

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A NEVER-CHANGING CHRIST
By L. E. Mason

Text Heb. 13:8

This is a world of changes. If we could turn back the pages of history for a hundred years or more we would be amazed at the changes.

There have been changes made in every phase of life. Some of these changes have been for the good and some have been for the worse.

The greatest change has taken place in the moral conditions and moral standards of our world.

It is encouraging, in this world of changes, to know there is One who never changes.

Christ never changes in His attitude toward sin. Many times because of the familiarity and popularity of sin men's attitude changes. Today we smile and condone things that we would not allow a few years ago. A few years ago we would not allow the vile pictures that appear in our paper and on bill boards today to be published. Neither would we allow the vile, filthy literature to appear in our schools, bookstands, and libraries as they appear today. What we need today is a few more "Carry Nations". Christ's attitude is still "Love for the sinner, hatred for sin."

His attitude never changes in His punishment and penalty for sin. Christ said "The soul that sinneth it shall die", "The wages of sin is death", "The wicked shall be turned into hell with all nations that forget God", "These shall go away into everlasting punishment". Then in Rev. 20 we see His attitude has not changed at the end of the age.

Christ never changes in His requirements and standards for getting saved and for getting to Heaven. Many are trying to change God's requirements. Many will tell us there is no need for old fashioned confession and repentance. Christ said in Luke 13: 3-5 "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." In 2 Peter 3:9 it is stated "God is not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance". In 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins". Old fashioned confession and repentance are still God's requirements for today. Many will tell us there is no need for Holiness of heart and separation from the world. Jesus said "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". Again in Heb. 12:14 "Follow peace with all men and Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord". Then in I John 2:15 we are told if any man loves this old world, that is the things that have been polluted by sin, he does not love God, for the love of God does not dwell in him. Holiness of heart and separation from the world are God's requirements for Heaven and He will never change. What was light for our forefathers is still light for us.

Christ never changes in His relation to His promises. To the sinners He has made these promises. If we confess our sins He will forgive, "Let the wicked forsake his ways and He will abundantly pardon", "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man will open I will come in," "He that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out".

To the hungry-hearted Christian He has made these promises, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled", "Faithful is he who has called you

who will also do it", "This is the will of God even your sanctification". Christ has not changed in His relation to these promises. He will fulfill each and every one of them if we will do our part. I John 1:9, Isa. 55:7, Rev. 3:20, John 6:37, Matt. 5:6, I Thess. 5:23-24; I Thess. 4:3.

To His faithful children, whoever they may be, He has made some wonderful promises. First, He has given us the promise "I will never leave you", second "I will comfort you", third "I will provide for you". (Phil. 4:19) Fourth "I will keep you" (Jude 1:24) Last and the greatest "I am coming for you" (John 14:16). Christ has not failed in any of His promises and I am confident He will not fail in this last promise. The coming of Christ is the only hope of the world. His coming is the only thing that will solve all the ills of this world. We will never have peace until the "Prince of Peace" comes. All the peace conferences will fail, but Christ will not fail.

Let us be ready for His return.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

By Mr. King,
Box 382, Lima, Ohio

"GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN"

The late afternoon sun had just finished tucking himself into the cradle of the west and pulled the purplish red drapes of evening about his body, the last dying shadows of which were slowly fading into cold, chilly looking patterns in the snow. Down in the village, the vesper bells chimed out melodiously and faded away with the dying sunset. Elizabeth Ann tucked the covers in more tightly around the shoulders of her mother.

"Oh, mother! You look more beautiful tonight than ever," and she bent over the beloved form of her mother whose cheeks were beginning to blossom and glow again under Elizabeth Ann's careful nursing and tender ministrations.

"You always say that," mother teased.

"I mean it, though, mother. I have an angel for a mother," and the twelve year old kissed the silk hair of her mother.

"Hush! Hush, child! I am but flesh and blood, and would an angel spank you if you're naughty?" Mother teased.

"But I needed it, mother, every time you gave it to me," the golden haired girl ejaculated, "and I love you for it. You did it because you loved me and wanted to help guide my footsteps in the right paths." "We will forget about that now, Elizabeth Ann, and think on how good you and Jonathan are to me. Whatever would I do without you both since Father's gone to be with Jesus! There isn't much I can do for you this Christmas, being so crippled like I am," and she heaved a deep, hurt sigh.

"Oh, mother, you must not think about that. Jonathan and I have the best Christmas presents two children could ever have: We have Jesus living in our heart and then we have you, mother dearest. This is all we want for Christmas."

"You humble my heart so, Bethie," she said tearfully, addressing her daughter by her pet name.

"But it's so, all the same," Elizabeth said. "Now, can you eat more broth and some bread? Dr. Peterson wants you to eat all you can get down and keep down. He said you should soon be well and out of this bed if you followed his orders," and the child reached for the hot broth on the night-stand.

"Mother, I've been thinking about Lou Jean down in the village. I can't seem to get her out of my mind today." : "Well!" mother said. "Would you mind terribly if I gave her my soft green wool dress you made me before you got sick?"

"That's the only good dress you have, honey," Mother reminded, "and we're too poor for material for any more for a long, long time. But, if you feel you should "

"I've been praying about it, Mother. It's the most beautiful dress I've ever had, but Lou Jean lust seems to have nothing. Her mother left them two years ago and her daddy was crippled for life in some mine, They're so much poorer than we are and they don't know Jesus. Lou Jean told me she has three brothers and sisters besides herself. Her daddy draws a little sum of money each month as compensation but it doesn't nearly feed and clothe them and take care of Mr. Jacob's medicine too. I... I've been feeling like she'd go to church if she had a nice dress. She's real clean and nice about herself, mother."

"What would you wear, dear?" mother asked.

"Oh, I always have that blue gingham to wear."

"But, Bethie, it's patched at places and . . . and . . . is fading so,": mother said softly as a tear gleamed in her eye.

"If you'd rather not, mother, I shall obey you, but I felt I should do it -- for Jesus' sake," the child added softly.

"No! No, dear. It is not the dress that is making me weep, it is your sweet unselfish soul and heart. By all means, Lou Jean shall have the dress, and go to our cupboard with its meager fare and limited supplies and get the best out for the Jacob's family. They shall know a little about the joys of Christmas and why we have such a wonderful day."

"But, mother, our cupboard's almost bare," Elizabeth said.

"Give them a part of what remains, honey. The Lord will supply our need. Has He ever failed us, dear?" mother asked joyously. "Never once, dear mother, and maybe Jonathan shall be

paid extra for the overtime at the mill," Elizabeth said as she surveyed the contents of the cupboard.

"'Tis not ours to worry about," Mother said softly. "He promised to care for us and He will. Now hurry dear, before it's too dark to see the path to the village and the Jacob's door. Christmas is too near at hand to delay."

Elizabeth Ann found her treasured Sunday School leaflet on the Christmas Story and, tucking it in among the few canned foods, plus an old ball Jonathan never used anymore and a homemade Raggedy Ann doll which had been a special treasure of hers for years, she carefully folded the beautiful woolen dress, then kissed mother good-bye and started down the steep path to the village.

The lights were already shining brightly in the village streets, and, as she walked, she thought they seemed to be smiling at her. It made her feel good all over. The moon began a silvery voyage across the starry heavens and the glistening snow crunched beneath her feet. Her breath came out in big white puffs and her nose felt cold and chilly but inwardly she was warm.

Quickly she went by the little shop windows where all kinds of pretty lights were shining and all sorts of wares were displayed. She gave them a hurried look, then turned into a small side street where the snow was piled in high drifts. Luckily, the snow had crusted, thereby holding her weight.

She found the small unpainted house and tiptoed quietly up the porch steps; then, rapping lightly on the door, she stepped back, waiting for an answer.

"Who's there?" a frightened voice asked as the door opened a small way.

"Lou Jean," Elizabeth said softly, "a blessed Christmas to all of you. It is I, Elizabeth Ann Harding. I've brought you something."

"Oh! Elizabeth Ann, how sweet of you to come to our house on a night like this!" and Lou Jean swung the heavy door wide open to admit her young friend.

"There's not too much here," Elizabeth Ann began, "but mother, Jonathan, and I wanted to share our supplies with you. Some of the fruit mother and I canned this summer. That will be good for your father, and here's a dress especially for you, Lou Jean. Since we're the same height and weight, I knew it would fit you," and she carefully unfolded her own prized green wool.

"Oh! Oh!" was all Lou Jean could exclaim as she hugged the soft dress to her bosom. "It's... It's . . . beautiful," she whispered as she began weeping softly. "I've never had anything like this in all my life! I love it, and Elizabeth Ann, I'm going to go with you to church every Sunday now. My clothes were too poor to wear to church."

"God's blessings upon the occupants of this house!" happy voices shouted from outside, as the soft strains of the Christmas carols were wafted through the now open door.

"Rev. Bishop! It's . . . you!" Elizabeth Ann exclaimed.

"Yes, dear child, 'tis me. We have some Christmas boxes to deliver here. Jonathan told us about the Jacobs family," and the young people from the church began carrying in boxes of edibles and clothes.

"Now come, Elizabeth Ann," the gray haired minister said, placing his kind hands on the angel child's head. "We'll take you home. Jonathan's waiting for you at home. We have another big shipment to deliver -- at the little white cottage on top of the hill."

"You . . . You . . . mean . . . my house?" she faltered.

"Exactly so, and I think we shall put you on top of the big spruce tree in your yard; you're our little Christmas angel if ever I saw or heard of any."

"No, no, Brother Bishop," Elizabeth Ann protested. "Jesus said 'Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye do it unto me.'"

"Right! I see Miss Lux has done a right smart job in helping her Sunday School girls get the Scriptures," Rev. Bishop said as the group started up the hill to the girl's home, "but Jesus also said, 'Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure ' Now it's your turn to receive."

Somewhere from down in the village the soft, sweet strains of "Joy to the World" floated up to the church group.

"Sounds just like angels," the sweet child whispered, clutching the old minister's hand more tightly.

* * * * *

ENLARGED QUARTERS

Paul Pumpelly

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitation; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left." Isa. 54: 2:3. God gives us the charge to enlarge our quarters. It doesn't take too much for a tent. A piece of canvas, a few poles and stakes and a little rope or string. It is not too hard to pitch and is not too hard to enlarge it. Just need a little more canvas or skin, a few more stakes, a little more string and you can enlarge. We need larger quarters. No wonder the new convert from "skid row" said, "I'll bust if I don't testify". We have to enlarge. God saw the need and said you need not be ashamed in doing it. If God is for your enlargement, then the devil is against it. The children of Israel pitched all over the desert but never made any advancement for God. The devil does not care how many times you pitch your tent just so you don't enlarge it for

God. If he has his way, you will fold it up. The devil cries, "Lion, lion in the streets". But lions don't live in the streets. He is a liar but a lot of folk are listening to him and failing to enlarge. And if they do grow, it is abnormal and out of balance.

Some are abnormal in standards and are afraid of love: They think they need to enlarge only in harsh rebukes. They are sour, critical, seeking only to win an argument, not souls. They are afraid to shed tears. Don't be afraid in love. Love fulfills the law. Love is the heart of this thing. Divine love is the end of the commandment. Tears, tenderness, compassion, fellowship; love. "Behold how they love one another". We need to enlarge in love. All can stand to open the tent flaps here and reach out in deep realms of divine love. Never stop enlarging love.

Others are afraid of standards and get abnormal in human sentiment. There is a difference between divine love and carnal compromising human sentiment. This kind slobbers over sinners with all kinds of expressions to cover up compromise. They try to pan it off on folk as divine love. It has no fear of God in it. Has no real concern for lost men but only a secret selfish motive of personal advancement. Afraid they will offend someone and drive them off. It always warns the new evangelist that the last evangelist preached all negative and drove all the "new-comers" away. One layman contacted the evangelist and warned him not to preach on "things" that night because he was bringing some new folk who take offense at negative preaching. The evangelist had been all afternoon in the mountains praying for the message and had it then burning on his heart. He minded God and preached it. It was negative and had a lot of "things" in it. The new folk took no offense but rather came forward to tell the evangelist they were lost and appreciated the truth anyway. The "layman" ran out the door offended. Paul said law first and then grace. Law reveals the sin, promises death, then grace reveals the Saviour and promises life. Negative, law, wrath, judgment, all need to be preached to produce conviction. The Holy Ghost uses it to convince men of their sinful condition and then prompts them to seek the Saviour. Don't be afraid of law. Enlarge your quarters with standards against the devil.

Some are afraid of offerings and fail to enlarge in giving. They say taking the offering kills the spirit. If taking the offering kills the spirit then the spirit it killed was not of God. We need to enlarge our tents and give. When they come down the aisle with the plates, we ought to be able to throw our heads back and shout, laugh, and dig deep and give. But some fold their tent every time an offering is taken. They reach for the billfold with five dollars in mind; by the time their hand gets there, it shifted to one dollar and then quickly before the plate reaches them, they leave the billfold and jam their hand into the front pocket for fifty cents and come out with a quarter and then groan about it the rest of the service. God help us all to enlarge our tents and give liberally.

While God commands us to enlarge our tents, many are folding theirs up. Especially when it comes to facing the dignitaries. Paul said we are to respect an elder but also we are to fear no man. But how many fold up their little tent when someone comes in. Pastors in bondage to district supts., district supts., in bondage to general supts., people in bondage to the pastor, and others in bondage to the kin-folk. Just when they get ready to open the flaps of their tent and enlarge, in walks some elder, some leader, some kin-folk and down goes the flaps, and the amens quiet down and all fold up their tents. Looks like a storm hit their tent city. We need to enlarge ourselves in the presence of dignitaries. God can take the fear of man out of you. Preachers who are afraid to preach the whole truth have no tent to enlarge. They folded up theirs a long time ago.

How many are afraid to enlarge because of the devil hollering "fanatics." "Lion, lion in the streets." So many remain impoverished and shriveled. "There are ten thousand ice bergs to one fanatic. There are ten thousand brakemen to one fireman." Fanatic means enthusiast, devotee, live wire, eagerness, optimism, fire, spirit, force. This sounds so good that God's people are willing to be branded fanatics in order to have enthusiasm, fire optimism, spirit, force, power. Praise God for the so-called fanatics who dare to enlarge their tent while others sit and starve.

Lengthen your cords, stretch your tent, get more string, enlarge your quarters. Stop paddling in circles. Get out of your rut. Brave a new one like the fellow that went before you did. Enlarge your love, your faith, venture out, challenge God. Get larger and larger for more joy and freedom. This reminds me of the fellow enlarging his tent who said, "I feel like writing a check for a million dollars and then stick my head inside the window of God's heavenly bank and wait until the teller pays attention to me." God said enlarge, spare not.

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THE END