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ARGUMENTS



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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPIC

By Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer, D. D.

Sept. 30—**Recent Triumphs of Missions at Home and Abroad.** Acts 14: 19-27.

The triumphs of the Missionary enterprise have been many and great. From the very beginning, when Christianity was founded by Christ and carried forward through the world by His followers, until now the work has been one long, continuous victory. There may have been reactions at times. Eddies have come, but the stream moves on. There is a steady advance, and the ultimate triumph of Christ over all the world is definitely assured. These triumphs in the work of Missions have been of a material and of a spiritual character. Some of them have been unnoticed. They have been working like leaven in the lump of human society, but they appear in the transformation of individual lives, of governments, of society. These triumphs are just as great as were those in the days of the Apostles, when men were said to have turned the world upside down. Let us look at a few of these more recent triumphs.

1. In the Homeland.

One naturally thinks first of all of the Indians, who were the original settlers of America. There are about 340,000 Indians in the United States. Of this number there are 80,000 Protestants and 50,000 Catholic adherents. It is estimated that the force of Protestant missionaries has been doubled during the last twenty-five years and has made wonderful changes among these people along the lines of health, housing and education. The Government maintains 268 schools for Indian children. There are 90,448 Indian children of school age, but only 64,943 are in school. By the influence of the missionaries and by education, many evils have been eliminated among the Indians, such as the use of the drug known as "peyote," gambling, intemperance, and gross immoralities. The moral standards of the Indians are gradually rising and in due time will be on a level with those of other Christian communities.

Another triumph in the Homeland has been missionary work among the foreigners, for 33,000,000 in the United States are either foreign-born or the children of foreigners. Practically all Protestant, as well as Catholic Churches are interested in the religious welfare of the immigrant. Particular progress has been made among the children of the aliens in America. They are being taught in Daily Vacation Bible Schools and are being rapidly Americanized. Most of these foreigners are living in industrial communities and the social and economic standards in many of these centers have been changed by the influence of Christianity. Labor conditions are being studied and corrected. Better sanitation, more wholesome living, better wages are being advocated and established. Many individual instances could be recited of persons who have been won to a Christian life and who have become shining lights for Christ.

Still another triumph appears in city evangelization. The city is probably a more important factor in the life of the nation today than anything else. One-half of the population in America live in cities. The greatest triumph in capturing our cities for Christ appears along the line of co-operative effort on the part of Protestant denominations. An individual Church or even a single denomination cannot meet the demands of a city. Seven definite results are being aimed at through effective organization by the Churches: 1. Adequate religious ministry for every section of the city. 2. Elimination of all waste effort. 3. Development of special types of work so as to meet every need of the city. 4. Definite responsibility assigned to each Church for a certain community. 5. Adequate neighborhood programs. 6. Co-operation in the welfare work of the Churches. 7. A Christianization of the whole city with its varied life and activity.

Another sphere of triumph is in the rural communities. There has been a wonderful progress first in getting at the facts through surveys that have been made. Churches that were unnecessary have been closed; others have been consolidated. Neglected areas have been provided with gospel privileges. Missionary triumphs in rural communities appear along the lines not only of a higher grade of social and spiritual life, but also in fostering a new community spirit, in better roads, in helpful recreation, and along many other useful and practical lines.

Missionary triumphs also appear in organizing the Churches for larger giving to the Missionary enterprise. Many Christians have been enlisted in definite, proportionate giving for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. A sense of Christian Stewardship has been created and men and women are willing to lay not only their property upon the altar, but their lives as well.

There has been an awakening along the lines of Missionary education. Men have been traveling across the world and have seen conditions at home and abroad. Textbooks have been studied by thousands of young people, setting forth the claims of the Missionary enterprise from many points of view and all this has created an interest and a sympathy in the work of Missions which will greatly hasten the ultimate triumph of Christ's Kingdom.

2. Abroad.

It is in foreign lands particularly where some of these Missionary triumphs appear most prominently. One reason for this is the dark background of the non-Christian nations in which Christianity is now being established. In Japan there is a widespread interest in the Bible, especially among Japanese school children. Thousands of copies of a Children's Magazine, in which Bible stories were featured for the children, were distributed in the public schools, especially throughout the northern part of the country. Four delegates from Japan attended the W. C. T. U. Convention in Philadelphia a year ago. These women are now raising a fund of $10,000 to reach the ten million school children of Japan, to teach them the scientific truth about alcohol. Since April, 1922, there is a law forbidding the sale of alcoholic liquor to young people under 20 years of age. Another great triumph in Japan is along Evangelistic lines. Rev. Paul Kanamori has wrought a marvelous evangelistic work. On recent visit to the Doshisha, the alma mater of Kanamori, 226 young men and women confessed their faith and received baptism at the hands of this great evangelist. It has been said that no such ingathering has ever taken place in Japan before. A nation-wide Evangelistic Campaign is being planned. Doubtless the earthquake and fire in Tokio and vicinity will only serve to advance the Kingdom of Christ among these people.

Similar triumphs have been recorded in Korea. Probably the work in Korea is more nearly self-supporting than in any other mission field. There are vast territories in which the Koreans are doing all the work themselves, according to their own methods and support.

In China wounderful progress is being made. In spite of the revolutionary outbreaks in that country and the serious handicap which missionaries are suffering, there is still a steady advance being made. Just 100 years ago Robert Morrison went to China as the pioneer Protestant missionary. Today there are no less than 10,000 Protestant mission stations and out-stations, scattered throughout the land of China. Western education is laying hold of the whole nation. Many evil practices in China have been abandoned. One of these is foot-binding, which it is said is dying out in the cities. Schools have been established among the blind. According to reports, there are 1,000,000 blind people in China. About 170 schools have been established for these blind people. There is a strong Community Church movement on in China. It is proposed to set up a central office and appoint a secretary with a view of instructing the people in the best methods of carrying forward the work of a union Church. Both in Japan and in China, the Reformed Church in the United States is carrying on a fine work along evangelistic and educational lines. In China the medical work is also stressed and hundreds of converts are being made yearly through the efforts of the missionaries. One could go to other countries and tell of triumphs there in behalf of Christianity. Surely one is greatly encouraged by what these heralds of the Cross are accomplishing for Christ. "Out of the night the world is rolling into light; it is daybreak everywhere."

Many people favor prohibition provided the law is so framed that it can't be enforced.

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Those who are in a "run down" condition will notice that Catarrh bothers them much more than when they are in good health. This fact proves that while Catarrh is a local disease, it is greatly influenced by constitutional conditions. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is a Tonic and Blood Purifier, and acts through the blood upon the mucous surfaces of the body, thus reducing the inflammation and restoring normal conditions.

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COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE

Hereafter, and until further notice the County Commissioners of Carroll County will meet at their office in Westminster every Monday and Tuesday of each week for the transaction of business.

By order,

SAMUEL J. STONE.
Clerk.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

(©, 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 30

REVIEW: GREAT MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

DEVOTIONAL READING — Heb. 11:13-16, 39, 40.

GOLDEN TEXT—"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."—Heb. 12-1.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Favorite Story of the Quarter.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Favorite Heroes and Heroines of the Quarter.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Some Great Characters of the New Testament.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Life Lessons From This Quarter.

With the senior and adult classes, three methods of review may be profitably employed:

1. The descriptive word method as presented in Peloubet's Select Notes.

1. Brave John the Baptist.
2. The Faith-Filled Virgin Mary.
3. Impulsive Peter.
4. Loving John the Apostle.
5. Thoughtful Matthew.
6. Ardent Mary Magdalene.
7. Busy Martha and Open-Hearted Mary.
8. Faithful Stephen.
9. Generous Barnabas.
10. The Many-sided Paul.
11. Timid Mark.
12. Helpful Luke.
13. Consecrated Timothy.

2. Presenting Life Lessons as given in Crannell's Pocket Lessons:

I. Woman Lessons.

1. Mary: Glorified Motherhood. Lesson 2.
2. Magdalene: Adoring Gratitude. Lesson 6.
3. Martha-Mary: Rounded Womanhood. Lesson 7.

II. Leader Lessons.

1. Peter: Compacted Zeal. Lesson 3.
2. John: Ripened Love. Lesson 4.
3. Paul: Passionate Devotion. Lesson 19.

III. Helper Lessons.

1. John: Faithful Pioneering. Lesson 1.
2. Matthew: Divine Transformations. Lesson 5.
3. Stephen: Heroic Witness. Lesson 8.
4. Barnabas: Greatening Greatness. Lesson 9.
5. Mark: Return of the Quitter. Lesson 11.
6. Luke: Double Healer. Lesson 12.
7. Timothy: The Glorious Ministry. Lesson 13.

3. The Summarizing of Contents. The following is suggestive:

Lesson I. John the Baptist was a humble and courageous man. He did not take honor to himself nor trim his message to suit the crowd.

Lesson II. Mary should not be worshiped, but she is worthy of great honor. Her faith made her to acquiesce in the Lord's will in spite of the fact that she knew that her character would be suspected.

Lesson III. Peter, while being fickle and cowardly, is a fine example of the transforming power of God's grace.

Lesson IV. John the apostle was a reticent man. He did not say much about himself, but was passionately in love with his Lord.

Lesson V. Matthew, though humble, was a man of force of character and decision. He left all and followed Jesus.

Lesson VI. Mary Magdalene, because she was saved, was steadfast in her devotion to the Lord. Because of this, she was able to tell the good news of the resurrection to the discouraged disciples.

Lesson VII. Mary and Martha both loved the Lord. Martha was mistaken as to the best way to please Him. Mary chose the good part in fellowship with her Lord which has made her name immortal.

Lesson VIII. Stephen was so completely filled with Christ that his face shone as the face of an angel.

Lesson IX. Barnabas was a good man and filled with the Holy Ghost. Therefore, he was qualified as a leader of men.

Lesson X. Paul's knowledge of Jesus was so real that he had as his supreme aim to magnify Him.

Lesson XI. Mark, though having turned back from the work, was restored and became a great and honored minister of Christ.

Lesson XII. Luke, the skilled and popular physician, gave himself up to be the attendant of the missionary of the cross.

Lesson XIII. Because of Timothy's religious training, he became a worthy minister of the gospel.

Corner Stone of Society.

The sanctity of marriage and the family relation make the corner stone of our American society and civilization.—Garfield.

Our Enemy.

A merely fallen enemy may rise again, but the reconciled one is truly vanquished.—Schiller.

Hatred.

When our hatred is violent, it sinks us even beneath those we hate.—La Rochefoucauld.

ANY PORT

By MOLLIE MATHER

(©, 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

KING, coming across the wide stretch of field, saw her standing where the log fence divided the way. His first impression was of a scarlet blur against the somber sky; later he discovered that the young woman wore a scarlet-lined cape.

The young woman continued to lean upon the fence, her arms crossed before her. King waited irresolute. He was so boyishly eager to make acquaintance, so apprehensive of the small creature's disdain. Again he summoned courage.

"In this part of the world," said King, cheerfully, "it is the custom to address strangers without introduction. And—" his engaging smile pleaded with her—"those of us from far away are mighty darned lonesome for home folks."

The smile that few could resist met the cold barrier of the girl's blue eyes; she merely drew the collar of her cape closer and continued to watch the blowing of the tall grass. King sighed audibly and passed on his way.

"Who is she?" he asked of his man-of-all-work as he sat at table for his evening meal. He described the interesting stranger to Joe.

"Mean the girl with the black hair an' the red cape?" Joe asked, "stopping at Brooks' place? She came here to get the Western air to heal up her throat, so she can sing again. On the way to be a great singer, Brooks says, when something went wrong with her throat and queered it all. Brooks' wife is a cousin, and I guess she's glad enough, on the lonely ranch, to have woman company—if the girl is company; always seems to be mooning over her lost voice, or something, out in the fields by herself. First you've seen her today?"

"The very first," answered the engineer.

Supper hastily finished, he set out determinedly for the Brooks home.

The ranch had been left to the young man by an eccentric but wealthy relative, upon condition that he make good there. Brooks' wife had loyally accompanied her ambitious husband to the "man's land." She greeted King gratefully. "I am sorry," Mrs. Brooks regretted, when he frankly made his errand known. "Paula will not meet anyone. She has been spoiled, I am afraid, by too many admiring friends—or perhaps the disappointment about her lovely voice, after years of training, is wearing upon her. I hope," Brooks' wife added, "that you will not fall in love with Paula, as men in general do. She's as independent as she is charming and, heretofore, has cared for men only to lord it over them. Now, that's the truth."

A low laugh followed the warning and King looked up to see the one discussed standing, her cape across her arm, in the doorway. The blue eyes were twinkling now and she was entrancing when she smiled.

"Not as bad as all that," the girl amended. "It is only that I am quite sufficient unto myself, so why bother?"

She was gone. In vain he tried to find her as he went his homeward way.

During weeks which followed he saw her often in the fields—lovely, always hopelessly aloof.

The warning of his friend's wife had not saved King; he was in love. At first he blamed the solitude for the constant haunting thought of her—no other woman had so obsessed him. Then he realized that this was the miracle of love which must come to every man.

His heart was heavy as he crossed, one evening, the stretch of barren land that led to the workmen's cabin. At this hour they would have departed for the night and he might be alone with his overwhelming disappointment.

Paula, the desired, Mrs. Brooks had told him, was leaving upon the following day, and she would thus pass out of his life with no word. He sat on a low stool at the back of the cabin and lit his pipe. Absently he heard a downpour of rain upon the roof. Rain that swept in torrents across the empty spaces.

Into the shaking hut rushed a rain-soaked figure. Breathless, a woman's slender form dropped, as if in collapse, on the floor. King was there at once, raising the girl in his arms.

"I was crossing the fields," her voice panted, "when I went out of my way, and when the storm came I found myself—here. I was almost desperate when I found your cabin door and came in to be sheltered."

Gently King's arms closed about the trembling figure.

"Paula," he said, low and yet half unbelieving.

"It was 'any port in a storm,'" Paula said, her laughter music to hear.

"It was fate," King spoke solemnly. "The storm drove you to me, oh, girl of my heart, because I wanted you so."

Paula peered near in the darkness, to look into his eyes.

"Well," she admitted, whimsically, "I did think you might be here. I've watched you come other nights, and I had to go back to my career tomorrow. I have been determinedly trying to renounce anything that might make that career secondary. But there comes a time—parting time, perhaps—or in a storm, when one does not feel all-sufficient unto one's self. I had to know you before I could go away."

"Do you think, now, that I will let you go?" questioned King.

Paula sighed contentedly. "There may be other storms in life, I suppose," she agreed.

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