

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y

STANDARD

Redemption
THROUGH HIS
Blood





from the

editor

GOD'S MISSIONARY
STANDARD

APRIL 2019
Volume 70-Number 2

© 2019 God's Missionary Standard
(ISSN 1065-4879)
P.O. Box 970, Penns Creek, PA 17862

God's Missionary Standard is published five times per year by God's Missionary Church and mailed from Shoals, Indiana. Subscriptions are FREE. Contributions to this non-profit ministry are always welcome and encouraged.

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BLOOD AND FIRE

It is estimated that what began with one zealous Methodist family ministering to the outcasts of society on the streets of London, grew to one million “soldiers under orders” around the world in the space of three decades. The Booth family embodied the message and methods of the book of Acts as they saw their work prosper under the blessing of God in an unbelievable fashion. The early Salvation Army preached a message of repentance that saw men and women who knew nothing but sin become new creatures in Christ Jesus. They emphasized the blessing of a clean heart and many scoundrels became saints of the Most High God who preached the gospel with a heavenly unction. Their street meetings became epic battles between good and evil as the gospel message proclaimed on the street corners gave the listeners a chance to choose between darkness and light. The mandatory half nights of prayer that happened once a week for each corps became a source of great power for the young movement and a place where new converts learned to engage in spiritual warfare. The whole spirit of “The Army” that drove it forward in the pursuit of God and lost souls could be summed up by the motto that adorned their flags and uniforms; “Blood and Fire”. This phrase in all of its simplicity captures the essence of New Testament Christianity.

The death of our Lord Jesus upon the cross gives us a glimpse into the loving heart of our God. The death of Christ did not make God merciful to our rebel race but was a demonstration of His mercy. As William Booth stated, “The Atonement was not necessary to create compassion in the bosom of God for sin-stricken man; it was the compassion of God that generated the Atonement. The Sacrifice on the Cross was not offered to appease the angry wrath of the Father; it was in the compassionate bosom of the Father that the sacrifice of the Cross was born.” God’s “unwillingness to forgive” sinful men is due to governmental reasons, not because of personal vindictiveness. His heart yearns to forgive but justice and order must be upheld. continued on **page 7**



DAVID WISE



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THE SPEAKING Blood

Adapted from
*"Select Fruits from the
Highlands of Beulah"*
by J. M. Humphrey

The question may arise here, in what sense does it speak better things than that of Abel? In order to properly answer this question we must first see what was the plea of Abel's blood? In Genesis 4:10, we read as follows: "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." Here we find the blood of Abel crying for revenge. The Mosaic law was based on this same principle. Therefore it demanded "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." But, thank God, the blood of Jesus speaketh better things! I now proceed to show in what sense it speaketh better things than that of Abel.

First, it speaketh pardon for the vilest sinner. Under the law men were to be stoned when they had committed certain classes of sin. But under grace the blood cries, "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely!" (Rev. 22:17). "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more."

A second sense in which it speaketh better things than that of Abel is it says, "Forgive and accept the backslider and prodigal." The blood of Abel cried, "Stone the traitor, and burn him, and his house, and all of his goods in the valley of Achor"; but the blood of Jesus Christ cries, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Again it cries, "If ANY MAN sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous" (1 John 2:1).

A third sense in which it speaketh better things than that of Abel is it sanctifies the soul and makes it holy. "Wherefore Jesus also that he might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate" (Heb. 13:12).

A fourth sense in which it speaketh better things than that of Abel is it is our armor when in conflict with doubts, fears, sin and the devil. It is said that in South America, where the snakes are numerous, the birds have discovered a poisonous leaf which, when placed in their nests, prevents it from being robbed by the snakes. The leaf is perfectly harmless to the birds, but the very smell of it is deadly poison to the snakes; *continued on* **page 5**



A Faithful God and a Fruitful Life

Honoring Rev. Kenneth Walter

The destiny of our lives often turns upon decisions made in a moment of time with no idea at the moment how significant that choice will be. The father of Bro. Kenneth Walter was saved from a life of deep sin at a Billy Sunday crusade around 100 years ago. That decision, and the life that followed, created a stream of influence and blessing that has flowed down to the present time. The elder Bro. Walter was 31 when he was converted and lived 31 years for God before his passing.

Bro. Kenneth was 9 when his preacher father passed away. The family was living in the Lebanon area at the time of his death and Bro. Walter's mother became his spiritual role model. He remembers the time he was in a foul mood around the age of 12. Instead of confronting him, his

mother began to sing a gospel song. Almost instantly, his spirit changed as the words of the song melted his hard heart. Though he had been to the altar many times, it was around this time at the age of 12 that he "got it settled" at the altar. Sadly, his mother passed away when he was 15. He began preaching at the age of 15 and doors began to open right away.

The family had been going to a Holiness Christian Church but in the early 1960's, Bro. Walter made the move and joined God's Missionary Church. He would go on to pastor various God's Missionary churches with 11 years of his ministry being spent in Florida where he became the pioneer of the Florida district of our conference. Bro. Walter considers those years in Florida as the most rewarding years of his ministry. He

spent 6 years as the president of Penn View Bible Institute and has blessed our conference in many ways with his life and testimony. He is still serving the Lord in the pastorate with his wife at a church in South Carolina. His advice to young converts just getting started would be "Seek out the most spiritual people that you can for close, bosom friends. Seek early in life to know the will of God for yourself and your life. Go to Bible school for one year at least to put yourself in a position where God can lead you." We as a conference are blessed by the life and ministry of our brother and we are so thankful for the hand of God reaching down into the life of his father and changing the direction of the Walter family. ❖



continued from **page 3** hence they cannot stand to come near it. Is not this a beautiful description of how the blood protects the child of God? Satan, the old serpent, cannot stand the blood. When we begin pleading the blood he has to run. God would roll aside an unfinished world to come to the relief of a soul who was sincerely pleading the blood.

A fifth sense in which it speaketh better things than that of Abel is that it prevails for our mistakes. Since we are all human and compassed about with many a mental and physical imperfection, we are all subject to making mistakes, and sometimes very grievous and hurtful ones. At such times Satan tries to discourage us over them, but God knows that they are not wilful, therefore He covers them with the blood.

A sixth sense in which it speaketh better things than that of Abel is that it is the signet that makes our prayers payable at the bank of heaven. Jesus said, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." When we attach the name of Jesus to our prayers and send them up to the throne, that sacred name brings all the cruel scene of Calvary fresh to the mind of the Father, and He readily grants the petition for Jesus' sake.

A seventh and last sense in which it speaketh better things than that of Abel is that it is the Christian's passport at the gates of pearl. We will not be admitted into heaven because we were members of the Methodist, Baptist, or any other church, but it will be because we have the blood of Jesus Christ upon our hearts. "His blood atoned for all our race, And sprinkles now the throne of grace." ❖



SWEEPING THROUGH THE GATES

Alfred Cookman was known in his day as one of the strongest proponents of Scriptural holiness in the Methodist ministry. During his final illness, Cookman had a vision of heaven that he declared was far more than a dream. He found himself inside the gates and was first greeted by his grandfather who said, "When you were in England, I took great pleasure in showing you the different places of interest; now I welcome you to heaven, my grandson, washed in the blood of the Lamb!" He was next received by his father, whose features were as distinct to him as they had ever been during his boyhood. The greeting was on the same note, "Welcome, my son, washed in the blood of the Lamb!" Then his brother George embraced him exclaiming, "Welcome, my brother, washed in the blood of the Lamb!" And lastly his son Bruner, a godly youth that passed away at age 13, repeated the refrain, "Welcome, my father, washed in the blood of the Lamb." Each one

of these in turn presented him to the throne.

In his final days, this saint of God told a Presbyterian pastor friend, "Such views of His cleansing blood I have never had before!" To a fellow Methodist preacher he confided, "I have tried to preach holiness; I have honestly declared it; and oh, what a comfort it is to me now! I have been true to holiness and now Jesus saves me – saves me fully. I am so sweetly washed in the blood of the Lamb." To a loved one he said, "I am so glad I have preached full salvation: what should I do without it now? If you forget everything else, remember my testimony, 'I am washed in the blood of the Lamb.'" He entered his heavenly home on November 12, 1871 and one of his final statements was, "I am sweeping through the gates, washed in the blood of the Lamb." At his funeral, Bishop Foster echoed the thoughts of many when he said, "The godliest man I have ever known is he who is enshrined in that casket." ❖

Adapted from "They Knew Their God" vol. 1 by Edwin Harvey and Lillian Harvey



ALAN
WALTER

THE NECESSITY OF The Blood

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” (Hebrews 9:22)

Three things form the thoughts for this article:

1. It must be blood.
2. It must be shed blood.
3. It must be applied blood.

You are familiar with the story of Moses leading the Israelites from Egypt; how they made ready, the lamb was killed, the blood was sprinkled on the door post and how the death angel claimed the first born in every home where there was no blood. It is true then, that the blood saved Israel. The blood is a key word in understanding the redemptive message of the Bible. Its meaning is essential to an understanding of the Old Testament sacrifices. People of that day found salvation through the blood of sacrificial animals.

More significantly, the word “blood” carries a primary theme in understanding the work of Christ (Taylor, *Beacon Dictionary of Theology*, 1983). The New Testament is the

story of the world finding salvation through the blood of Christ. Without Jesus’ death on the Cross, all the sacrificing of goats, bullocks and sheep in the Old Testament would have been useless. Those sacrifices were drawn on Heaven’s Bank of Eternal Mercy, knowing that the checks would be made good by the ultimate deposit – the very life of the Son of God.

But why did God require it? Why a sacrifice in the first place? Why does God expect this shedding of blood? Why would He send His own Son to the cross?

It is remarkably hard for you and me to fully grasp what an affront sin is to God. There are those who will not believe that we are born with fallen natures, and thus face a chasm between us and God from our very birth. In this fallen state, we transgress God’s laws. We all have come short of the glory of God by our own personal sinning. The book of Romans gives us God’s opinion on the problem of sin. It is so repugnant to God that He will not accept it for a moment. “Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15).

But God does not want us to die. He wants us to live. And so, He devised a means to circumvent our guilt – and that was by sacrifice, the voluntary continued on **page 9**

continued from **page 2** In His wisdom, the shed blood of Jesus became the means of reconciling justice and mercy. Christ's death as the "Lamb of God" effectively ended all Old Testament animal sacrifices as He became the great and final offering for sin. This shedding of blood automatically saves no one but rather opens the door of reconciliation for those who will meet the conditions of the gospel; repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. With this promise in hand, a broken and contrite heart can humbly, but boldly approach the throne of grace and receive a pardon for all the sins they have committed. As wonderful as this is, the provisions of the Atonement are yet greater and more wonderful.

Fire is seen in the Bible as a symbol of purity. The fire of the Holy Ghost represents the work of God by which He sanctifies the nature of man. John the Baptist prophesied of a baptism that would take fallen man and renew him to such an extent that all "chaff" would be "burned out of his soul." This baptism of fire must be preceded by a sound conversion and a definite "death route" consecration where the whole man is placed on the altar of God. As in Old Testament times, the fire would fall when the sacrifice is complete. The blood and the fire cannot be separated. The blood of Christ makes possible this fiery baptism. When one says no to the baptism of the Holy Ghost, they become blood rejecters. Christ did not shed His blood to give the human race a "stay out of hell" card. His precious blood was poured out on the cross to transform depraved sinners into soldier saints of the Most High God.

The success of the early Salvation Army is that they lived what they preached and they preached what they believed everywhere. The Holy Spirit honored their faithfulness to the word of God by coming down in great power wherever they went to preach this gospel. Kate Shepherd, a seventeen year old girl in 1878, was one of the Army's "Hallelujah Lassies" that preached with power. She was sent to the Rhondda Valley in Wales and saw one of the greatest revivals in the history of the early Salvation Army. The buildings were too small to hold the crowds that eagerly gathered to hear the young woman preach. Hundreds of the roughest sort of characters sought the Lord with true, godly sorrow and became miracles of saving grace. For ten years she labored faithfully for the Master until her labors brought her to the point of exhaustion. She retired from public life, got married, and lived out her days in the same spirit in which she had ministered publicly. The heart made clean by blood and fire stayed clean all of her days. It is this gospel of "Blood and Fire" that brings victory in the pulpit, the home, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. It is this gospel that our world needs. ▣

“
The
blood
of Christ
makes
this fiery
baptism
possible.”



How Long Should We Pray?

Adapted from "The Holy Spirit in Life and Labors" by J. Wesley Adcock

Some might answer the above question by saying, "Ten minutes." Another might choose to answer, "One hour." We read of Jesus praying all night. Across more than a quarter of a century of teaching in holiness schools we have had prayer and then the lesson. I welcome the Holy Spirit to each of my class sessions. I don't just welcome His presence — I welcome Him to have right of way in my classes. I more than need Him — I MUST have His presence and power if my teaching is to be all it should be for the students and for the glory of God. Again and again when too many weeks have slipped by without a special moving of the Holy Spirit, I have specifically prayed for a special manifestation of Him. Sometimes this has come by His special aid in presenting truth; sometimes His presence has been manifested by His sweet hallowed presence; other times He has

moved in such a spirit of prayer and praise that there has been burden, shouting, and rejoicing until we failed to get to the assigned lesson. The Holy Spirit has a special lesson for us. Oh! We must have Him or else have an unspeakable loss. When students have forgotten some of the things I have endeavored to teach them, they may well remember times when the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in our midst. Some time ago in my "Life and Letters of Paul" class, we had a moving of the Holy Spirit that hasn't been duplicated in any of my classes since then. We went to prayer. After some time in prayer, I felt we should wait a while longer. I mentioned it to my class and we prayed on. After a while I told them that if every heart were clear we might arise. Not one of them arose. I never had an experience just like that one. It seemed that maybe some needed help about their call. I mentioned this and

some wanted help about their call. I don't know the details of their needs on this line, but we prayed more, and again I told them that if all hearts were clear we might arise and not one got up. Some more wanted help about their call. I was so impressed that we were doing business for eternity. Finally, the bell sounded, and it was time for class to be over. Again students were at liberty to go. Two left. I think they were to leave for their work. Others of us stayed on our knees over into the next hour. How long should we pray? Instead of marking it by the hands of the watch or clock, suppose we endeavor to obey the Holy Spirit and pray as long as He leads or until we pray clear through! Following Him there should be no wasted time. He never misleads. Bless His dear worthy name! Be sure to make room for His coming, whenever or whatever is the occasion. ▣



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continued from **page 6** surrender of that which is most precious to man in the heartfelt desire to establish communion with God. The Old Testament sacrificial system was only a stopgap measure until, in the fullness of time, Christ would come. John the Baptist announced it so grandly when he made the dramatic declaration: “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

It is the miracle of the incarnation. Jesus was clothed with a human body to do the will of God. He came to give Himself to you in ultimate sacrifice, knowing that it was the only access you could ever have to the throne of God. He was not coerced into that action. He could have called legions of angels to take Him away from Calvary. But, because of His love for you, He died and shed His blood so you could be forgiven and enabled to live above sin.

There is nothing else in all the universes that can do the work of that blood. John hardly gets started in his letter, before, with a holy hush, he comes to “the blood.” There are two outstanding things in his epistles: one is the dark stain of sin, and the other is the precious blood of Jesus. Sin constitutes the necessity for redemption (Hames, *Breaking the Alabaster Box*).

Only Christ’s death on the cross can ever save you. Do you have His blood applied to your heart?

1. It must be blood.
2. It must be shed blood.
3. It must be applied blood.

Hallelujah for the blood! ❏

New Conference Headquarters

God's Missionary Church is writing an exciting new chapter of progress with the acquisition of an historic church building in Penns Creek. Built in 1886, the building was offered at a reasonable price out of respect for the contribution of Penn View Bible Institute, Penns Creek Camp, and God's Missionary Church in the village of Penns Creek across many years. Earlier the General Board and others had discussed the need for a conference headquarters, but the price of new construction set that out of reach. This purchase was the right opportunity.

The General Board plans multiple uses for the facility including:

- A headquarters building right along Route 104 with signage to make God's Missionary more visible to the public
- Conference rooms for board meetings and other assemblies
- Offices for the Conference President and others in leadership
- Central location for archives and conference resources
- Penn View Ministerial office and classroom as well as a sanctuary where preaching and special services could be practiced
- Gatherings for pastors and wives
- Special prayer meetings

We praise God for this remarkable opportunity and pray for wisdom to manage the new resources effectively. 📌



Births



The Bloserveille congregation is excited to rejoice with Keith & Elizabeth Flynn on the birth of their son, **Benjamin**. He joins siblings Violet, Lawrence, and Esther. Benjamin Keith Flynn was born 5:10 AM on 2/6/19, 7 lbs. 14 oz., 21 inches long.

Sophia Emily Habecker, daughter of Rev. Sheldon & Jennifer Habecker, was born 10:23 PM on 6/21/18, 7 lbs. 1 oz., 18 1/2 inches long. She joins big sisters Elizabeth & Esther.



president



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Nov. 12-13: Administrative work

Nov. 14: Milesburg revival meeting: Rev. Daniel Durkee challenged us to share forgiveness.

Nov. 16: Penns Creek: Attended a planning meeting on how to use our new GMC Conference Headquarters.

Nov. 18: Danville: I went to Geisinger Hospital to visit Jenna Durkee who is expecting a baby soon.

Nov. 19-20: Weston, West Virginia: I took a couple days off to hunt with my son and some friends. My son shot a buck and doe and I shot a nice doe.

Nov. 21: Bro. John Zechman and I signed papers for the purchase of a property in Penns Creek to be our GMC Conference Headquarters. We are excited about this opportunity to have our own identity in Penns Creek.

Nov. 22-23: Thanksgiving time with family and friends. I didn't go out like some of you on Black Friday to shop.

Nov. 24: Administrative work. I spent time with sermon preparation, paper work and preparation for future board meetings.

Nov. 25: Mahaffey: Excited to have the Mahaffey Church back in our conference. I went to fill in for the day. We are now trying to find them a pastor.

Nov. 27: Hershey Hospital: Bro. Leonard Raub was involved in a car accident. Millersburg: Rev. Dorothy Straight was just put on hospice care.

Nov. 28: Selinsgrove: Rhoda and I visited a friend in the nursing home. He had attended the Beavertown Church with us many times. He has a singing "Prayer Bear" that reminds us God hears us when we pray.

Nov. 29: Penns Creek: PVBI Board meeting & PVBI Staff Christmas Banquet at Country Cupboard. We appreciate the great team that God has given to our school.

Nov. 30: Pastor James Winter watched Bro. John Zechman and I sign papers for the purchase of a church two miles from Lancaster, PA.

Dec. 1: Sermon preparation.

Dec. 2: Mahaffey: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift". Jesus is a personal, practical, pleasing and should be a permanent gift.

Dec. 3-5: Administrative work, sermon and funeral preparations.

Dec. 6: Meeting with Rev. Dorothy Straight's family for funeral details. It was a privilege to have Rev. Ken and Eileen Gordon stay at our home for the evening. They came from Indiana for the Christmas Musical.

Dec. 7-8: Gratz: viewing and funeral for Rev. Dorothy Straight. She was a faithful minister for 40 years. She had a great spirit of hospitality and a great sense of humor.

Lewistown Hospital: to see Jamison Plank. I was not able to see him because he was having a procedure done.

Penn View Businessmen's Meal and Musical: it was an inspiration and inspired us to keep focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

Dec. 9: Mahaffey: The shepherds heard, hastened and heralded the message. May God help us to do likewise.

Dec. 10: Harrisburg: GMC Home Missions Banquet. A great update from our Home Missionary pastors. God is working in special ways right now in our conference. Special thanks go to the Fuller Family for their leadership and love for God's work.

Dec. 11-14: Administrative work. I also developed a new message and worked on a conference message for this coming year. It was exciting to spend some extra time in the study

developing sermon ideas.

Dec. 16: Sunbury Christmas program: our grandchildren and others did a great job with their pieces and program.

Dec. 17-19: Administrative work. Scheduling speakers for our FL District Camp, pre-services, and for Mahaffey. I also gave a tour for a few people at the new headquarters building. Enjoyed seeing the new floor in our gym at PVBI. Now that's exciting! I'm looking



JACOB MARTIN

forward to playing some basketball with the young guys.

Dec. 20-21: Lewisburg Hospital. Our daughter had twins today. McKenna and Jackson Sanford. We thank God they are all doing well.

Dec. 22: Sermon preparation.

Dec. 23: Mahaffey: I was able to share about Emmanuel-God with us! We were given a special Christmas angel ornament made by a 99-year-old man.

Dec. 25: We were privileged to have Rhoda's parents and the Knapps with us for a Christmas meal.

Dec. 27-30: Kissimmee, FL: Attended the funeral for Bro. George Fink, stepfather of Rev. Jonas Hight. Bro. Fink loved to teach math and the Bible.

Dec. 31: I worked on "Traveling with the President" notes. We thank God for His Presence and grace that He has given to us this year. We anticipate more victories and His continued help in the coming year.

Jan. 1: Christmas with my children and grandchildren.

Jan. 2: I took senior ministerial student, Nathan Black, to Larry's Pizza to talk to him about his future. It was exciting to have him share about his desires to be involved in God's work.

Jan. 4: Highlight of the day. Playing basketball with the young people in the new gym.

Jan. 5: Administrative work, ministerial mailing and board meeting prep. I also always make January my Bible reading month. I have taken extra time to read the first 5 books of the Bible.

Jan. 6: Mahaffey: "Looking to Jesus"

Jan. 7-12: PVBI & General Board meeting; worked a couple days on the new headquarters building. 📌



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Adapted from "Revival Incidents" by Beverly Carradine

Revival in New Mexico

While in New Mexico, I preached in a town where there lived a man for whom his wife and her mother had been praying for twenty years. He drank steadily, used tobacco immoderately, swore continuously, never darkened a church door, and seemed to have made up his mind to be lost. Absorbed in politics and bound up with lodges, he seemingly had no time to prepare his soul for judgment and eternity. Among other things I heard of him was that he took fourteen secular and political newspapers and read them all diligently and devotedly. The two women continued to pray with now and then a hope fluttering in the heart, but usually a kind of dull despair hung over the case. My meeting opened and the man came out of curiosity. He heard of some of the illustrations of the preacher with an overcoat and chair and came to behold the unusual proceeding himself. Not an illustration was used that night, but the sermon, full of solemn thought and convicting power, reached his soul, and he awoke from the sleep of a lifetime. The next night he was powerfully converted. Five days later he was tremendously sanctified. I use the

word tremendous in the attempt to convey to the mind of the reader the clearness, brightness, gladness and thoroughness of the work of grace that he received that day. I do not remember ever to have seen a clearer case of holiness received and lived. The man's face literally beamed with light. His every breath was one of prayer or praise. He seemed saturated with the presence of God and talked religion and only religion to everybody that came across his path. I met him again six weeks after the meeting and in that time he had read the whole Bible through once and the New Testament through three times. He had also completed the lives of Carvosso and Hester Ann Rogers. The staple of his conversation was Christ first, and after Him, Moses, Joshua, Carvosso and Hester Ann Rogers. He refused to be led away into conversations and discussions about politics, war, crops or anything else. His eye would wander, his manner became distracted, and then suddenly he would break into the talk in a musing tone and with reverent, awe-struck speech — "Wasn't that wonderful what Jesus did; or that Jesus said!" A day was spent with this man in a trip

across the country. It made the writer forever richer with the inspiration and strength given him through the grace, goodness, unwavering piety and devotion of a brand that had been so recently plucked from the burning. But what about the two women who had prayed so long for the salvation of the wicked husband and son-in-law? The reader will scarcely be able to believe it, but they were displeased and highly indignant. They were glad over the conversion for a few hours, but when they saw the subject of their twenty years of prayer not only leave sin, but sweep past them in the regenerated life, consecrate all to God, seek holiness at the altar, get the blessing, and still more, live the life before them — they were at first disgusted and then became furious. The solution and explanation of this last case is so evident to all in the light of full salvation that I need not give it. The lesson to be drawn, however, is that when regenerated people beg God to cast the devil out of sinners, they should not to fail to ask Him to take the "old man" out of themselves. □