

*L. M. W. R. L.*

## A LOST CONVICTION

Acts 13:10

You may become very much disturbed if you lose your hat, your umbrella, ticket on the train, your dog, your house key, or purse. But there are other losses much more serious. For example:

1. Your health...meet an old friend that was once robust etc. but now you do not know him.
2. Your good name..."A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."
3. Your character. Much worse than losing reputation. Reputation what people think you are but character is what you are.
4. Your convictions....This is serious.

The text this evening represents a moment of emotional stress when St. Paul found it necessary to break away from the more polite forms of speech and express his real convictions.

He and Barnabas were in the isle of Cyprus on, what we today would call, a Preaching mission. Many people were becoming believers...Sergius Paulus, a Roman pro-consul wanted to learn more about this growing religion and asked to see *Paul*. Paul yielded and began to tell him about the risen Lord, his own conversion etc. So Sergius decided that he wanted to become a Christian.

The devil saw that such a thing would not do at all. Now there was a religious faker named Elymas who had a place in the consul's court. He saw that if Sergius became a Christian he would lose out so he was good soil for the old devil to work in and so he worked..This sorcerer worked on Sergius until he was wavering and Paul saw it.

It is said that Paul's eyes were blazing with wrath and he did not mince words..He said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all good, full of all craft and cunning, will you never stop diverting the straight paths of the Lord? The Lord's hand will fall on you and you shall be blind." Verse 11.

(Pierce Harris' story about the old farmer who was going to make a key out of his crop..The circuit Rider said, "I am a

good mind to ask the Lord to destroy it." In a few days a wind did come and laid it flat. The next month when the pastor was again out that way the farmer went out and met him and said, "Parson just stop that horse." The preacher said "What for?" Farmer said, "I am going to whip you" "What for?" asked the preacher. "When you were out here before you said that you had a good mind to ask the Lord to destroy my corn crop because I was going to make it up in to liquor." The minister asked, "Well did the Lord destroy it?" "Yes don't you see it lying flat on the ground?" He took horse by bit and asked preacher to get off that he was going to wear him out. The preacher said, "Well I just got this to say to you you touch me and I will ask the Lord to strike you down."

Now I am wondering if the conviction Paul had and expressed is not a lost one to day. If Paul lived to day and had studied some of our ideologies I am wondering if his language would not have been something like this? **ELYNAS MY FRIEND, LET US UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. THERE IS GOOD IN ALL RELIGIONS IN YOURS AS WELL AS MINE. LET US SUBMIT OUR DIFFERENCES TO A FACT FINDING COMMITTEE..LET US POOL OUR INTERESTS AND SYNCHRONIZE OUR EFFORTS AND KEEP COOL.** *The Socrates is replaced*

*to day by Communism*  
It is nice to keep cool unless keeping cool permits a false philosophy to spring up and defeat the Christian gains and hinder the church. Then we need to rise up and have some convictions.. The devil is glad to compromise if in doing so he robs you of your Christian principles. *The church needs to speak out to day against certain sins & hold them*  
Some times I fear that we have lost our capacity for righteous indignation.

Let us keep cool...have no emotions in religion...that's what the devil wants..We express our emotions on foot ball field, and in religion we need more warmth that we now have.

A speaker at an Edison Electric Institute, "The people of the U.S.Are becoming refrigerator minded" Their slogan was "Beat the heat,""keep America cool." A movie house advertises, "Cool inside." A freight car was marked, "Assigned to ice service" The church is too cool..we must not assign our selves to "ice service."

We are too much inclined to day to  
See nothing..Say nothing...do nothing...be nothing.

A man was running mayor of a certain town and one day as he

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was speaking some one asked "How do you stand on our building the new school (Tha was quite an issue in the campaign). He replied, "That is aplain question..its a good question and I am glad to answer it. Here is the way I feel, if it is a good thing I am for it and if it is a bad thing I am again it."

A-S-

Joan of Arc saw her beloved France over run..the people cowed under...the King complacent...army helpless...and leaders in despair.

Led by a deep conviction she said, "I will lead them"

The commander said "They will not follow you"

She said, "I will not look back to see any one is follow ing me..my sword is sacred..I found it behind the altar in the Holy Church Of St. Cathering where God had hidden it for me."

Placing herself at the head of thetroops, waving her banner before her, looking not back but forward the intrepid maid only seventeen years of age swept every thing before her the soldiers followed and France was saved.

" YOU SON OF THE DEVIL..YOU ENEMY OF ALL GOOD..FULL OF ALL CRAFT AND CUNNING..WILL YOU NEVER STOP DIVERTING THE STRAIGHT PATHS OF THE LORD? THE HAND OF THE LORD SHALL FALL ON YOU AND YOU SHALL BE BLIND."

