

WHAT MODERN LIFE EXPECTS
OF
CHRISTIANITY

Mar. 25-40 Linnville

Men to day are as profoundly interested in spiritual truth as they have ever been. They may not like a light breakfast food sort of thing held up as truth but when you find out their inner heart about the Bible you will see that they are still interested. It was Sabitier who said, "Beneath the scum of life we find that man is incurably religious..May this ever be. The poet has said: ~~THE SCUM~~ - you have seen the malarious pan -

"In every savage bosom there are longings, Strivings, and yearnings for the good they comprehend not." *the church is to be a real till good is comprehended*

Man may pull down his barns, diversify his crops, and the yield of his land increase but the law of growth will remain unchanged.

A man may reconstruct his religion and disavow his creeds but the elements of his spiritual nature and the laws by which it grows will remain unchanged. Religion remains the most personal and the most intimate of all human concerns.

If men who are in the church and men who are out are dispondeant it is because their highest religious impulse remains unsatisfied. Many men, although believing in all the virtues are in intellectual bewilderments and are honestly confused as to their beliefs about God, about Jesus, and about the Holy Spirit. They in their beclouded condition are looking to the church for that certain expression of Christianity which will satisfy the deeper longings of their nature. *Let your light so shine*

Maybe that they are not to blame for their bewilderment. It may be that they have looked before to the church and the people seen in the church gave them an unclear vision of the Christ

As men and women look for this deeper satisfaction they do not look to business world...for there is no indication that they would find it there. *It ought to be possible*

Neither do they look for it in the political world for too many things happen there that disrupt ones faith in his fellow man. Teddy Roosevelt was heard to say, "They applaud me but they do not vote for me." Satisfaction does not come out of politics.

Since the church is the receiver of truth from the spiritual world the modern world looks to the church for light and spiritual guidance. woe to the congregation whose candle burns no more. woe unto the congregation that chokes the channel from heaven.

to human hearts. But blessed is the church that keeps it light burning and the channels open. *and what is said of the church should be true of the individual.*

Modern life would expect from the church simplicity in religion and not so much technicality. Jesus in the very launching of His Kingdom would use illustrations as simple as a hen and chickens, lost sheep, lost coin, and so on.

Simple faith...clean language...kindness...good will...and Christian helpfulness are more attractive than going into a theological argument trying to prove the existence of God.

But peo. have always inquired
It might be fine for all denominations to be united in one. I have thought, however, that friendly rivalry might keep it more vigorous. So why waste time at that when we may all have the same spirit and be friendly to each other thereby impressing modern life with the spirit of brotherhood. I think that modern life in Columbus would have us be

"One in the freedom of truth
One in the joys of paths untrod
One in the soul's perennial youth
One in the LARGER thought of God."

"Back to Christ" must be our watch word. When people come to hear me preach, to hear you teach, or to hear us sing they want Christ and not theory. A minister had the habit of preaching...as we say...above the peoples head. A slip was left on the pulpit saying..."We would see Jesus"...He changed his style to what we call the simple gospel...A few weeks later another slip was left saying..."The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."

In Raphael's picture of the Transfiguration the mountain is seen...below is the sick child...the crowd is jeering at the disciples for not being able to cure the child. When Christ came on the scene the healing was done.

The Christless church never does any thing
The Christless teacher never lifts his pupils above himself.
The Christless preacher never wins souls to the Kingdom.

Modern life expects more than religious ideas...those ideas must be expressed in the lives of those who hold them. Geo. Elliot saw that ideas, however real, were poor thin ghosts until they found expression in living personalities.

Some one said that God could not make the violins of Antonio

Stratdivari without Stradivari...likewise religious truths can not from themselves into character until they become a shining reality in human form. ,

No other teacher ever held before men such high ideals as did Jesus but these would have been meaningless had not the Word been made flesh and dwell amongst us....full of grace and truth.

Unless religion has become character in us then we are but talkers and our professions but tinsled display. Jesus revealed God to be love.... and to have strength enough for us....resourceful enough to supply all our needs...the church does not have to disappoint modern life in its expectations..modern life is demanding of the church...lives that are unconscious of the whisperings of self...

You will recall that Markham in his poem entitled "Inasmuch" has pictured a watchman named Ivan guarding the heights of Moscow...one wintry night a half clad begger came along, and Ivan gave him his coat. The next morning Ivan was found frozen.. And the poem reads....

"But waking in that better land that lies
Beyond the reaches of these cooping skies
Behold the Lord came out to greet him home,
Wearing the coat he gave at Moscow's dome."

"Where dear Lord found you this coat of mine
A thing unfit for glory such as thine
Then the Lord answered with a look of light
This coat my son you gave to me last night."

*So that seems to be what modern
life expects of Christianity—
Let us pray—*

*Lord speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone
as Thou has sought so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone—
amen*