

THE PROSPEROUS MAN
P.S.1:3

*nothing succeeds
like success -
we like to see any
ball team succeed*

In the last two decades the word depression just about replaced the word prosperity. In fact the word depression was used so much that it became obnoxious to the ears. One club had a man come to speak and told him.. "Now whatever you do, do not use the word depression." The speaker, however, had written his speech and had used the word depression several times. So when he would come to the place where he had that word he substituted two other words..... These words were "Quiet Boom". The Psalmist here is giving us a recipe for success. This should appeal to us for no body goes around begging people to call him a failure. Matters not what your vocation is you desire success.

You might say that we are in an age of success worshippers but our ideas of success are not always the highest. We do not always give first place to those whose success is in the spiritual realm.

Prosperity and success come to mean about the same thing. Most people writing of prosperity have in mind the financial side of life. When you come to think about just what success means we will find that we may have financial prosperity but very little real success. To show you what I mean when I say that some writers in speaking of success mean financial prosperity I will quote from a prominent historian H.G.Wells. He once said, "The monetary muddle, the failure to balance production and consumption, and the tradation of running human affairs as a system of hostilities between sixty odd soverign governments are the threads or strands in the rope that tightens around the neck of human wisdom. Just as the threat is threefold so is the solution threefold money, credit, and finance." He says if that could be brought about we would have success... but success in what?..In finances.

Now if he had gone back behind the threats and showed the selfishness, greed, and the pure unadulterated sin as the cause then added to his solution repentance and turning to God his article would have been pointing in the direction of success that is real.

The Psalmist brings the good news that all of us may have real success....

We may have a palace or a hut, disease or health, but in spite of all circumstances whether fraught with laughter or tears if we meet the conditions we will succeed.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS? NEGATIVES

- 1 Discipline..The road to success is shut in certain limits We dislike discipline these days and want to do as we please...live our own life. The train going from station to station must stay on the track prepared for it or not arrive. There are then refusals that we must make.
 - a. Refuse to walk in the council of the ungodly. Who are they? Those who leave God out of their thinking. And no man can win for himself real success who leaves God out of his thinking.
 - b. Refuse to stand in the way of sinners. This is a lower degree than walking. Walking you might walk out of the way of sinners but standing denotes a decaying sensitiveness to sin. It indicates that one is losing his antagonism to evil.
 - c. Refuse to sit in the seat of the scornful. To take the scorners seat is to take the lowest place possible. He chooses to just sit and see sin go on and never do anyth thing about it. P207

This man laughs at the faith of his childhood

This man looks with contempt on fine enthusiasm

This man feels himself at home as critic of his fellows.

POSITIVES

1. Not only must he say "No" to the wrong but "Yes" to the right. He delights in the Lord
He reads his Bible and delights in it because it feed his soul.

The nature of his prosperity was not in winning things but in what he was.

2. He shall be like a tree PLANTED...purpose
3. He will be steadfast
4. He bringeth forth fruit in his season
5. Rich in the life that abides

All the trees of God's planting are evergreens. An evergreen not only shows its color in the spring and summer but in winter as well.

To make God our choise is to lay hold on abiding spring time and that is success,

"I have never amounted to anything but I am a success!" Old man Fardick

altar OUT SIDE of human hearts. (3)

Let us consider the first statement. If God does not exist any where except in human hearts then, of course, He could not have existed until there was a human heart in which He could dwell. This brings about the thought of a subjective God. All the God we have is the God in us. They would say that when we pray that the only answer that comes is within us..we just make it happen and that there is no God outside of a man that you can appeal to as an objective God.

According to that line of thought God is not yonder in the flower because there is no heart there. Up ten miles in the air there is no God untill some man flys up there. Therefore you have no God out yonder in the vastness of worlds because there is no human being there. This would make the Psalmist wrong when he said, "If I ascend up into the heaven thou art there, if I make my bed in hell lo thou art there, if I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea...thou art thereetc."

In this view God could not get into a heart without one person passing Him to another. A person in the desert could not receive God. God could be seen only in human hearts and human hearts being impure as they are there would be a poor vision of God.

The same would apply to the devil. We could not say that the devil goesth about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He and God both do not exist aside from human beings therefore did not enter the world till man was here.

There is only one place so far as I know where God does not dwell and that is in the heart of a sinner...He knocks just outside the door.

Let us then repeat something we have already said..this in its final annalysis comes down to this..doctrine that religion is a subjective affair. That is to say that there is nothing outside ourselves as an objective external God When we pray the only good that comes is the psychological effect that it has on beings.

The second statement that God is also around this altar

and in this church aside from being in human hearts. If this be true we then come here to day and worship the true God and not the one imperfectly revealed in human beings. He honors every consecrated altar with His divine presence.

When we come here we need to have that feeling that God is here...can you not feel an objective presence here.. The great God outside yourself as well as touching your heart?

It is sad that the human heart, many times, becomes the poorest medium through which God expresses Himself. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth forth His handiwork...Where is purity demonstrated better than in the face of the lily? One heart was a perfect medium and that was the heart of Jesus. We should consecrate our hearts till they become more like Jesus so that God might be seen in our lives the better.

From now on when you enter a house of God think of His actually being there..seeing you...knowing your thoughts handling tenderly your longings.

OH HEART OF MINE STREAKED WITH SIN AND SHAME
THROW OFF YOUR SINFUL ADOPTED NAME
LOOK AWAY FROM THE IMPERFECT GOD INSIDE
TO THE ONE WHO AT THIS ALTAR DOETH RESIDE

TRUST THEM IN THE ALL COMPREHENSIVE GOD AND START
WORSHIPPING THE GOD IN AND OUTSIDE THE HEART
THINK ON AND WORSHIP HIM WHO IS SO NEAR DEAR
KNOWING THAT THO IN THE HEART HE IS ALSO HERE

WHEN THEY SAY LO THERE OR LO HERE
DON'T FORGET THAT THE ONLY TRUE GOD
IS OUTSIDE INSIDE AND EVERYWHERE
BOTH IN THE HUMAN HEART AND IN THE GOD.

GOD'S PRESENCE IN HIS HOUSE

"AND JACOB AWAKED OUT OF HIS SLEEP, AND HE SAID, SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE; AND I KNEW IT NOT.

"AND HE WAS AFRAID, AND SAID, HOW DREADFUL IS THIS PLACE! THIS IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HOUSE OF GOD...AND THIS IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN."

"I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD."

I want to speak to you about the House Of God and His presence there.

At first there were just piles of rock as a place to worship God. The people believed that God was right there and because they believed thus they would pile up some stones and then of course tents, houses, and to day great churches. During the last four years Methodists in Mississippi have built churches valued at eight million dollars.

Why do we build them? I heard a Judge teaching a Sunday school class one day and he said that we speak improperly when we say House of God, for siad he the church building are mans house. His contention was that the buildings are built with mens hands and that God is not there except in the hearts of people.

This accounts for much of the irreverance that children and others have for the church building. We are not to worship the material in the church building but should what it represents. God's presence. Illustration... The old man who always tipped his hat when he passed the church.

What the Sunday school teacher was trying to get over was that people thought God was up at the church and they left Him there when they should have Him in their hearts.

Our contention is that God is present right here around this altar. But some one says, "God cannot exist aside from human hearts." This idea brings us face to face with two statements:

a. God is here to day in human hearts ONLY

b. God is here to day in human hearts and around this

