

The Proof Of Religion

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

*The International Sunday School Lesson for June 8 is, "Obedience."
—Matt. 7:21-29.

It is remarkable what a ghastly separation people often manage to make between their religion and their life. Nor is it the persons of hypocritical intent in whose thought and life duty is divorced from devotion. There are many who make much of their religion, but it is crowded and cluttered into the corner, leaving all the rest of their lives empty and unblest by it. Many there are also who would like enough religion to keep them classed among "the religious" and yet not enough to make real demands upon their time and attention; enough to

secure for them the life eternal, but not enough in any wise to affect the life temporal.

Then there are undoubtedly those who wear their religion as a mask. Jesus had seen such among the religious classes of his day—the scribes, the Pharisees and the Doctors of the Law. He said they looked well outwardly, but inwardly—They were like whitened sepulchres, which are beautiful without, but within were full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

The Message From the Mount
In the Sermon on the Mount the great Teacher makes it plain that religion is eminently practical. It is not mere doctrine, it is duty. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Obedience is the price of life. Jesus declared: "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that

doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven." The clear visioned Christ, the great searcher of the heart will distinguish. Not all the clamorous and self-complacent professors of orthodoxy shall enter, however repeatedly, loudly and familiarly they call "Lord, Lord."

The confession "Lord, Lord" is symbolic of a sound creed, as well as a religious profession. It is as much as to say that there are many who have an unhesitating belief in the doctrine of grace and of God, who nevertheless are not true disciples of Jesus. He demands a profession of his name, but those who offer only this, he will exclude and reject. Faithfulness as well as faith, is necessary to secure entrance into that realm of bliss where his servants serve him with no divided allegiance.

The Times of Testing
So loyal was Jesus to the spirit of truth, and so indifferent to its outward seeming, that he early won for himself the name of heretic, and as such was put to an ignominious death. Of course, he was orthodox itself, but he did not square with the crooked little sticks which the priestly measures tried to apply to him. He had no zeal to conform to their type of correctness, for he measured himself—and he laid this down as a principle for all his disciples—by the unchanging word of the Father and by revelation of the great day of clear vision.

As Jesus lived his own life revealingly in the brightness of truth's revelation, so he taught that there is a day coming when all men's characters shall be discovered, and their judgment settled. Doubtless there will be great consternation among many of the loudly professed professors of Christ. Astonished and incredulous they will cry: "Lord, Lord, have we not stood among the people as thy representatives in the world, preaching of the gospel? Have we not cast out demons in thy name, and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

Up from the depths of a city's slums, by way of a rescue mission, occasionally comes a dramatic story of one whose life had in its time stood high and shining, but who, for one cause or another, had become a castaway. Of the thousands who applied to the Bovey Branch of the New York P. M. C. A. for relief work last year twenty per cent. were college men. Once leaders of men now needing to be lifted out of the gutter. How vividly they illustrate the Master's teaching that no man is saved by his standing. Position in life, reputation, diplomas, usefulness—none of these are sufficient to save in the crises of life, or in that other great hour, when the soul stands before its Maker for judgment. It is then that the thoughts of the heart must chord with the outward seeming in loving fidelity to the Christ whose friendship is life for two worlds. The thought is startling, but it is true, that those from whom men might vote as the most religious, may be found among the rejected before the Searcher of hearts.

What Counts on the Great Day
In the book of Matthew the Judgment day is depicted for us in the imagery of Christ seated upon the throne dividing the sheep from the goats. The sheep he places on his right hand and the goats upon his left. To those on his right hand he says: "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' To those on his left hand he says: 'Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Inasmuch as ye did it not unto me of the least of these ye did it not unto me.'

The great final test of religion is not religiousness, but a relation; not what have I done, not what have I believed, not what have I achieved, but what is my relation to Christ? So the great Teacher makes it plain that he will openly declare that he never knew these loud professors. He dismisses them with the simple command: "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity." As unbelievers depart from the loving God he refuses to follow, obey and love him—so unbelievers must forever depart from the presence of God, and from the glory of his power, "outcast."

A Parable of Position and Floods
This whole mountain side sermon concludes with one of those exquisite parables whose pictorial beauty and spiritual insight, always remarkable, are in this case elevated into a strain of solemn grandeur and awful impressiveness. Jesus compared the persons who hear and do his words to a man who built his house upon a rock. "And the rains descended and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock." Those who heard his sayings and did them not he compared to a man who built his house upon sand. "And the rain descended, and the floods came and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell; and great was the fall thereof."

Every Jew could understand the simile. As in all hilly countries the streams of Galilee rush down the torrent beds during the winter and early spring, sweeping all before them, overflowing their banks, and leaving beds of alluvial deposit on either side. When summer comes their waters fall, and what had seemed a roodly river, is a tract covered with sand and pebbles. A stranger coming to build might be attracted by the level surface of the sand. It would be easy to build there. On such a house a winter torrent had swept down in its fury, and the storms had raged, and then the whole fabric, on which time and money had been expended, had given way and fallen a heap of ruins.

When Storms Come
The lesson of the Lord is easy to grasp. The wise man will hear, and when he hears, will do, that is, will translate his impressions into actions. This will be to build his house upon a rock.

For rains, winds and flood do come into every life and make it wise to build on a good foundation. We are all liable to afflictions, sudden fears and death; and the man whose hopes are at loose ends, and on sandy foundation, may expect his house to fall. This is the case of unconverted sinners. None are safe whose hopes are not built on the Rock of Ages.

There is something very striking in the words with which Christ concluded his sermon. "It fell, and great was the fall of it." "After all," men would say, "it was only the destruction of an 'human being.' But our Lord, saying reminds us that in his eyes the fall of one soul is a consideration full of unspeakable sorrow.

Jesus in his closing discourse, leaves his hearer under the impression of this solemn thought. Each of them, while listening to this last word, might think he heard the crash of the falling house, and say within himself: "This disaster shall be mine if I prove hypocritical or inconsistent."

METHODISTS ARE SPEEDING DRIVE

Must Raise \$750,000 in Few Days to Meet Their Quota

Baltimore, June 6.—Methodists in this area are expected to raise \$750,000 in the next nine days, to complete the area quota to the great centenary fund for world relief, evangelistic and educational projects. The full quota for this area, \$7,159,000, in all probability will be fully pledged by June 15.

In addition to the time limit for subscriptions has expired, the headquarters here indicate that pastors and their team captains are making earnest campaigns to put their churches "over the top."

Earnest work by church leaders in localities that got a late start in the big financial drive has caused the figures to mount steadily. Tabulation of reports from all parts of the area show that the delayed campaigns are progressing most favorably.

Centenary directors here are confident that before the time limit for subscriptions has expired, their quota will be pledged in full. This assurance is based upon reports from superintendents stating that the drive gained momentum following the week devoted to an extensive financial canvass of members.

Several hundred churches which have not yet reached their quotas, are continuing the campaign in their localities with a view of making a 100 per cent. canvass.

In scores of churches throughout the area the financial campaign will be featured by jubilee celebrations on June 8 and 15.

Lusitania Medal in Hands of the American Army

Coblenz, Wednesday, June 4.—The Lusitania medal, which was issued, occasionally comes a dramatic story of one whose life had in its time stood high and shining, but who, for one cause or another, had become a castaway. Of the thousands who applied to the Bovey Branch of the New York P. M. C. A. for relief work last year twenty per cent. were college men. Once leaders of men now needing to be lifted out of the gutter. How vividly they illustrate the Master's teaching that no man is saved by his standing. Position in life, reputation, diplomas, usefulness—none of these are sufficient to save in the crises of life, or in that other great hour, when the soul stands before its Maker for judgment. It is then that the thoughts of the heart must chord with the outward seeming in loving fidelity to the Christ whose friendship is life for two worlds. The thought is startling, but it is true, that those from whom men might vote as the most religious, may be found among the rejected before the Searcher of hearts.

Official photographs of the medal are to be sent to Washington. The Lusitania medal, which has been variously described, is of oval shape about two and a half inches in diameter. On one side in relief is depicted the sinking of the ship, with the following inscription in German: "Lusitania, sunk by German U-boat May 7, 1915."

On the reverse side is depicted a line of people at a booking office, the figure within the ticket office window being a skeleton, handing out steamship transportation to those awaiting their turn. The German inscription is translated as "anything for money."

Middletown

Fourth Infantry Band Gets Trip to England

Bentley Buller, who has been manager of the American stores, South Union street, for the past two years, has been transferred to Lebanon. Mr. Buller will be succeeded by George S. Knapp, of Steelton.

Mrs. Sherman Hawthorne, of Harrisburg, was the guest of the Social Circle, which met at the home of Mrs. J. M. Ackrman, Water and Pine streets, yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Anna Snyder, of this city, and daughter, Mrs. George Ackerman, of Pittsburgh, are spending several days at Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Irely, George Irely, and Dr. O. M. Swartz left yesterday for Philadelphia where Mrs. Irely will undergo treatment at the Medicine-Chief Hospital.

Miss Rose Bowers, of Speeceville, is spending several days in town as the guest of her brother, Dr. C. E. Bowers and wife, Swatara street.

The home of Jacob Nissley, of North Union street, was entered by robbers Monday night. They gained entrance from the east, ransacked all rooms on the lower floor and got away with a gold watch belonging to his grandson and some money.

Miss Bowers and her sister, Mrs. Wightman of Market street, were injured by having it caught under a pump handle.

Dr. David Weirich, of Brown street, received a letter from her son, James, from Coblenz, Germany, who is a member of the Fourth Infantry Band. In it he stated that his band won first place for a trip to England, Belgium, France and then to the States where they parade in the large cities. The Fourth Infantry band is considered the best in the A. E. F. It is now drilling with the regiment in Coblenz, which leaves for England in a few days. It is expected that the King and Queen of England and General Pershing will review the American regiment when it marches through London.

Monroe Schaffner, of Philadelphia, is spending a few days in town on business. He recently moved to Philadelphia where he and his wife will make their home with their son, Otis, who purchased a drug store in that city.

Dr. David Alberstadt and brother, Herman, returned to Philadelphia after spending some time in town as the guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alberstadt, of South Union street.

Mrs. A. S. Etter entertained Mrs. Scott and sister, Miss Minnie Basom, of Hummelstown, last evening.

Mr. and Mrs. George Etter will move into the Brandt property on Witherspoon avenue, which is being vacated by Mrs. George Kramer. Mrs. Kramer will live with her daughter, Mrs. Fred Houser, of Catherine street.

Three applicants took examina-

tions for provisional certificates in Superintendent H. J. Wickey's office to-day.

R. Friedman, of this city, attended the confirmation exercises at Shlom Temple, Harrisburg, yesterday morning. His niece, Miss Annetta Friedman, was confirmed. A dinner was served from 8 p. m. until 11 p. m. for the immediate family.

Personal Mention

Lt. Madsen who has been visiting at the home of Walter E. Davis, 282 Forster St. since returning from overseas service has gone home to Chicago to accept a new position.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl B. Wheeler, of Cincinnati are guests of their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer F. Jordan of Penn street for a few days.

Miss Elinor Chase and Miss Beatrice Chase of Baltimore, are in town for a brief stay among old friends.

Henry F. Johnston went home to Washington, D. C. this morning after a little visit with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thompson of Green street.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, of Pittsburgh are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Kapner at 2220 North Third street.

Miss Irene Keller, of Portland, Oregon, is stopping for a while with Mrs. Walter E. Davis of Forster street.

Patrick Longforth went home to Baltimore to-day after a week's stay among relatives in the West End.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Fletcher of Milwaukee are in town for a week's visit with Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wightman of Market street.

Irving Sponser went to New York to-day to remain over the weekend.

Harvey Wilson and Jackson B. Wilson, of Omaha, Nebraska, are in

the city for a week or so looking up old friends.

Miss Bertha May Thatcher, of Jersey City is a guest of her relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Owens of Market street.

Watson Grimes and Miss Susanne Grimes, his daughter, are in town for a short stay with Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Brown of North Second street.

FOUR HURT IN DUBLIN

Dublin, June 6.—One girl and three policemen were wounded last evening by shots fired when the police dispersed a crowd which had gathered in front of the Mansion

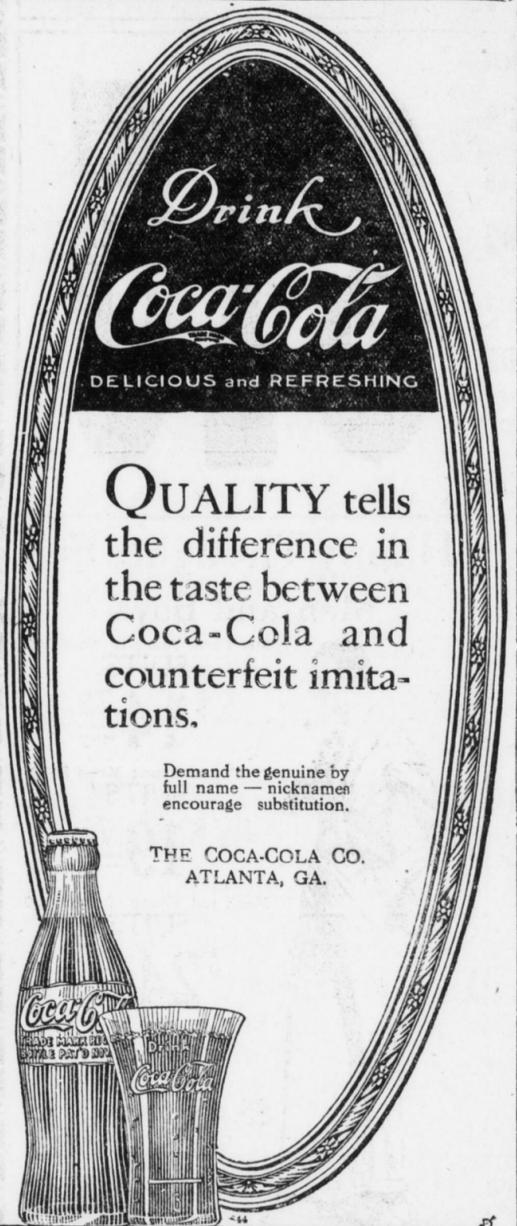
House to celebrate the birthday of James Connolly, "commandant general of the Irish republican army," who was executed on May 3, 1916, following the Irish revolt. The gathering had been forbidden by the city authorities.

ARMY BOXER LOSES

Paris, June 6.—"Ted" Jamieson, of Milwaukee, national A. A. U. runner up in the amateur light heavyweight class in the American Expeditionary Force boxing championships, was defeated by Leferre, a French boxer, in the third round of a bout here Tuesday night.

Harry C. Hunter Shows

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And our stock is just replete with cloth suits at the usual low Wm. Strouse prices—are the most reasonable to be found. You'll pay less for the best makes at Wm. Strouse & Co.—than for cheaper merchandise elsewhere—That's just why we are known as "Harrisburg's Dependable Store."

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