

Sign-Boards on the Up-Road

Joseph Ford Newton, late of London's *Times*, has written an article on "The Message of the New Preaching." He says that every land has its differentiation in manners and customs, every age has its dialect, its literature, in social emphasis, and especially true in religion. Still, farther the particular spirit that marks a generation modifies a religious statement, and this is again interpreted in individual temperament.

Jesus invented no new ideas, simply crystallized truth in eternal age form. His teaching in regard to the human relation is true everywhere — his ascent to God is the only way.

Dr. Newton illustrates how "jargon" must be retranslated constantly. The "Grace of God" has been iterated so often that it finds no reaction. The phrase sounds pious, and like all rigmorale presently comes to mean nothing. A preacher gave a sermon on the Grace of God to a group of soldiers. After he had finished, a soldier said to another: "Perhaps you can tell us what the preacher meant by the 'Grace of God.'" And this is the translation. The Grace of God is to the moral world what the mysterious, ever-present power of recovery, of reward is in nature. The wounded part is the objective toward which all of the body's regenerative processes mass. The disease is healed by sacrifice of energy, by co-operation, by the multitude of nerves and cells and whatever else may be brought to the "front line." The body volunteers to keep itself. So the Grace of God is the power of the immanent and kindly God poured out in behalf of the "sinner."

One wonders how often God is set forth as a friend; how too often as a condescending deity who stoops to need. God is not that sort. Before ever we need He is waiting, or ever we pray He answers. God is where a friend is — on the front-line. This is the "Grace" of God, this friendliness.

Dr. Newton quotes one who says that in a universe where not an atom of matter, or a vote of energy is ever lost it were well to apply that principle to the human salvation. Clut-ton-Brock says: "Salvation is seeing that the universe is good and becoming a part of that goodness."

It is the contribution of reason that the blasphemous and abominable idea of the fall of man is looked upon to-day as a crude attempt to account for evil. This idea happens to be the key-stone of so-called orthodoxy. It is not to be wondered at

that the "mechanicalists" cling so tenaciously to this idea. Their trivial system falls with the elimination of the doctrine . . . but the fall releases Jesus from the taboo to become the comrade of the race. The entire race is involved in any decent conception of salvation.

"Religion is betting your life on the idea that there is a God." Well, a God must be worth the seeking — that means a Friend, a Comrade — one who will see the game thru. Shall little man feel a brotherliness toward all creatures — and every normal person feels an outbreak of affection toward all — and God the infinitude of Love give up the game in despair? Shall He not be big enough to finish the job?

Dr. Newton speaks of the method of new preaching as involving a reconciliation of truth in religion with advancing science, and with the advancing race in freedom of life. Every generation expands to larger liberty; religion must accept and conserve youth.

Interpretation is the next advance. They will be done is not the Pharisee straight-jacket, but every age adds new amplitudes. Thy kingdom is not some mechanical idea, but a growing human organization in brotherhood. Every expansion in service is a trail blazed for the kingdom.

Exploration is urged upon all thinkers who have compassed truth. The Bible is merely a fragment of truth. God is constantly unfolding His truth as He finds an instrument fine enough to reveal through. Who dares fix terminals on any idea?

Co-operation is a great ideal in the new preaching. Only small minds are fixed in dogmatic and denominational cement. Great hearts are open gates thru which God gets to the race. Shall He become Father except thru brothers? The old crudity of personal salvation is impossible to-day in a world that is race-conscious. It is utterly unchristian.

Christianity is about to be discovered. That is the reason why the modernists are challenging the church to gird up its loins and discover the earth. Dogmatism has found heaven — religion is about to discover the world. Let the church become God's voice to industry, to politics, to art, to philosophy, to the social world, and these worlds shall near God-Will and Service as the signs of the children of the Eternal Energizer thru the energy of Love. Love is a builder.

50

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The loud boaster is not always to be censured. At times there is no other way of covering up the smallness of one's intellect.

It is no longer necessary to take to your heels when a fellow makes a motion toward his hip pocket. Take it in your mouth, instead.

The old year went out in a blaze of glory, but not all people witnessed the arrival of the new. Some didn't revive until the morning after.

If it is true that the good die young it is not to be wondered at that this is a sinful old world. Nobody is hankering to be bumped off.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Pursuant to an order of Hon. Bernard B. Ackerman, Surrogate of Allegany County, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against Roxana B. Burrows, late of Andover, in the County of Allegany, deceased, that they are required to present the same with the vouchers thereof, to Frank W. Burrows, the executor of the last will and testament of the said deceased, at the Burrows National Bank in the Village of Andover, N. Y., on or before the fifteenth day of July, 1923.

FRANK W. BURROWS, Executor.
Robbins, Phillips & Robbins, Attorneys for Executor, Hornell, N. Y.

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BENJ. CONLEY, Vice Pres.
W. W. PINGREY, Secretary

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Sunday, Feb. 4th.—
Morning service at 10:30.
Sunday School following morning worship.
Evening service at 7:30, a union service at our church.
Junior C. E. at 4 p. m. Sunday afternoon.
Senior Christian Endeavor at 6:45.
Mid-week service at the Presbyterian Church Thursday evening at 7:30.
We welcome YOU to all the services of OUR church.

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Bible School, 12 M.
Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:15. Topic: "What is the Chief Value of a Christian Endeavor Society?" Leader, Miss Olive Chase.
Evening worship, 7:30. Theme: "Sinners in High Places."
Monday, Baraca night.
Wednesday evening in the church parlors, our annual church meeting for the election of officers and such for the election of officers and such other business as may properly come.
Thursday, monthly covenant meeting.
Saturday evening, Teacher Training Class.



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