

Balley
9/14/52
P.M. "A Wonderful Experience"

M. Union
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Text: 9

Introduction: - God is no respecter of persons, but whosoever will may come and have life-the life of God.

These are romantic stories of those who were wonderfully saved by the grace of God.

On a rainy night in a pioneer Kansas country school house, a red headed lad went forward and bowed his head on the school house dictionary and gave his heart to Jesus. That experience put a driving power into that lads soul that made him a brilliant preacher, a college president, and a bishop in his own church. It is significant that he was converted with his head on a dictionary. He later became a wizard with words, and came to love the dictionary that he would read it through as he would an ordinary book. On his death bed he ordered a new dictionary, saying, "I want to get well of the right disease".

Yes, something wonderful happened to Billy Quayle that night in a country school house that made him one of the most influential men of his day and generation. What was it? Why he was saved by the grace of God.

"One time" said Mr. Babson, Chas. P. Steinmetz of the General Electric Co., was visiting in my home. He was at that time the worlds foremost electrical engineer, and that evening as we sat talking, I said, "Mr. Steinmetz what line of research will see the greatest development during the next fifty years". He replied, "I think think that the greatest discoveries will be made along spiritual lines. History clearly teaches that spiritual forces have been the greatest power in the development of men and nations. Yet we have been merely playing with them, and have not studied them seriously as we have the physical forces."

Yes, the E.U.B. church has always believed in the primacy of spiritual power for

our American civilization. It has always taught that something wonderful can happen to each and every person that will make them new inside and outside. It has always placed major emphasis on evangelism and on personal experience of the saving grace of God.

This was demonstrated in the life of Otterbein and Boehm. I would like to ask you, what it was that drew Otterbein away from his church, the German Reformed, and led him to form a new denomination the United Brethren. Was it not that he found after he came to Am., an experience that led him to do as he did? Surely it was something in his heart that led him to put his arms about Martin Boehm and exclaim in the German language, "We are brethren". He was a stolid sort of a man, and it was not until he had found the grace of God, that he limbered up enough to hug a fellow preacher and exclaim, "We are brethren".

Yes, when the E.U.B. church ceases to be evangelistic and winning converts, God will run her down on the switch and leave her to rust out among the weeds and raise up some other church to carry on his work and win the people to the Savior.

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, one-time pastor of a church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and also of the City Temple, London says, "At one of those meetings, the chariot of God passed by and I climbed in. The preacher was one of those cross country circuit riders and he swayed the great audience as the winds of God sway the sea. And, there was something that spoke in his voice that moved one boy as he had never been moved before, and brought him into an atmosphere, and environment, and a fellowship which has been kept glowing ever since". Who was it that won the great preacher, Newton? You do not know. Neither do I. But that fact remains, it was an old time circuit rider. Oh, yes, something wonderful happened to that boy that night. What was it? He was saved.

The story of Helen Keller has always been a source of wonderment to me. In her eternal

prison house of silence and darkness, she tells of the loneliness of her soul. She was unable to speak, hear, or see, she was as an alien as she lived among the scenes of pulsating life. The into her drab and desert existence came a Christian emancipator, Miss Sullivan, who for years wrought with infinite patience and love until the girl could read, and talk and see. And we are told that on one occasion, while in a southern city, her instructor was looking at a beautiful sunset. Helen Keller was by her side. Suddenly she began to spell into Miss Sullivan's hand, and to utter words which she had previously learned, like one in a great joy, saying over and over again with fingers, and lips and dancing eyes, "You have made me see! I see sunsets, I smell perfumes, I see roses, I see you, I see God." What had happened to Helen Keller. Something wonderful had happened to her that had transformed her life.

Take to story of Mel Trotter.

Now you may say, "I am not a drunkard like Mel Trotter. I have never stolen or gambled. I am a pretty good sort of a person. I am a good moral man, or woman. That is fine. You should be rather proud of yourself. But my dear friend, unless you have felt the grace of God come into your life as Mel Trotter or any of these I have mentioned today, unless something happens in your life, or has happened in your life, you will lose your own soul, along with the criminal and the deep dyed sinners.

Is there not just one here who wants something wonderful to happen in their life today.

Besides the important experience of meeting him & giving your life to Him for the last time you can have the wonderful experience of meeting Him each morning & walking with Him thru the day. Are you His do you have these wonderful experiences. If not come & seek Him tonight.