

1/24/56

"The Passing of the Old Year"

Dec 30, 1956

New Year

Scripture Lesson:-

text:- Psalm 19: 12. "Who can understand his error."

Introduction:- All things about us are in a state of change. The earth does not remain the same from year to year. Geology is a fascinating science which is a study of the changes of the earth from age to age. Different geological ages are characterized by different conditions upon the earth. Islands and perhaps whole continents have risen above and fallen below the surface of the sea. Lakes and rivers have been shoveled out. Mountains have been pushed up out of the crust of the earth. The forests have become waste places and waste places have been turned into forests.

Nations of men have come and gone. Nations have flourished in one age to disappear in another. The human body changes completely in every seven years. Our bodies rise to a zenith of physical strength and vigor and then recede. Time leaves indelible marks upon our bodies with the passing of the years. The endless cycle of time keeps the multitudes of earth ever moving onward toward an eternal destiny in another world. The march of the years keep up their endless tramp over the hilltops of time.

I.

The passing of the old year is a time of inventory for business concerns. Some business concerns will show a profit, while others will be in the red. In our text the Psalmist was speaking of a spiritual inventory when he said, "Who can understand his error."

How do our lives stand in the passing of the old year? It is time for our successes and failures to come up for review and for evaluation. How is it with your soul? Is your life on the profit side of the ledger, or is it in the red morally and spiritually?

It is not pleasant to confront our

errors and mistakes. Have you made any errors and mistakes during the past year. I suppose we have all made them. Let us highly resolve never to make the same errors and mistakes again.

The only way to improve is to be alert to our mistakes and errors. There are many things which blind us to our errors. Selfishness and conceit may keep us so blinded that we refuse to acknowledge our errors. We may be alert to the errors of other people while blinded to our own errors through selfishness and conceit. Jesus spoke of such selfishness and conceit when he said: "Why cast the mote out of the brother's eye, when thou hast a beam in thine own eye"

Great caution should be exercised in the criticism of others. When the X-ray of inventory is turned upon our inner lives, and we begin to discover our own faults, we will find that we have plenty at hand in making corrections of our errors without spending time and effort in casting the mote out of the eye of another.

II.

spiritual
An excuse which is offered for a multitude of deficiencies in our spiritual lives, is the pressure of much business, going to and fro and rushing hither and yon. All of the rush and hurry which is giving God a secondary place in our lives has been a tragic folly. It is a sad reflection both upon our judgment and ability, when we offer the age-old and time-worn excuse, that we are too busy to make God's business first in our lives.

A great array of successful business men have found time for the Sunday school, the regular preaching services of the church on Sunday, the mid-week prayer meeting, and for visitation evangelism, and have stood as a testimony against the excuse of being too busy, under which so many people hide.

John Wanamaker, who was Postmaster General of the U. S., found time to go from Washington to Philadelphia every Sunday to superintend a great

Sunday school. John R. Pepper, the merchant prince of Memphis, Tennessee, found time to superintend a Sunday school over a long period of years. R. G. LeTourneau, who heads the largest concern for the manufacture of dirt-moving machinery in the world, finds time to speak at religious gatherings and give his testimony for Christ on an average of six or seven times per week. William E. Gladstone, Prime-Minister of England, found time to be a regular attendant and to make calls upon the poor and needy in distress and pray with them in their homes. If these great men, doing a great work, found time to do the work of the Lord, surely the modern laymen could find time to do it also.

Men are blinded to their errors in this age by the light view of sin that has become prevalent on every hand. Sir Oliver Lodge said, "Men of culture are not bothering about their sins." They should, for sin will some day find them out, in body as well as in soul.

Many people have gone to their graves prematurely because they ignored the warning signals of disease. Sin is the most deadly thing in the universe. Men have used all manner of methods in an effort to extract the sting of death out of sin. But in spite of all of the human philosophies to the contrary, the awful fact still remains that "the wages of sin is death."

The sinner will treat his sin lightly under the guise that he is "not so bad." He relies upon his morality and good works as a balance against his sin. Since he classifies himself as "not so bad", there is no urgency upon him for repentance and turning to God.

Conclusion:- Many of the people of the church are given too few resolutions on this the almost first day of the New Year. A few resolutions will not be enough for many of us. What we need is not a few simple and shallow resolutions, but we need to let the Spirit of the Almighty One search our hearts and see if there be any wicked way in us. The Holy Spirit will find it; he will urge us that we confess it to the Lord; that we get rid of the "sin that doth so easily beset us." What

Just what may this sin be. Can it be our tempers; Or our indifference; or our stubbornness; or our prayerlessness; or our lack of Bible reading; or our the fact that we have never been converted. Do we need to listen once again to the words of Jesus that were spoken to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Or perhaps it is our relationship with God. We say we are Christians, but we do not act like it. "What shall I do with Jesus? What we do with Jesus determines our justification before God.

Perhaps you have not been kept by power divine. He who is not kept spoils. There are several ways to spoil: to get sour with the world; to decay; to turn bitter, to harden your heart, to shrink, to covered with mold, to be a mossback.

"Who can understand his errors? Let us this Sunday before the coming of the New Year take an inventory of our lives, and if we need to come to Christ once more, then let us come.

Let us highly resolve that under God we will give all diligence in the study of the Word of God; to be more a man, a woman of prayer; in attendance at divine worship. Let us resolve to do all the good we can, to all the people we can, in every way we can, to the praise of Him who hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; unto him be glory and dominion forever and ever.