

We have to school ourselves to see the good that lies in others and to encourage them by our example to use that good in their work in the world and to the glory of God.

Hymns 17, 425, 384 - 501.

In the silent places, in hearts of men and women the world over the battle of the spirit is being fought. Some fall by the way side to rise and try again some give up in dark despair and some reach out and ask Gods help & finding it go on to heights unbelievable. And are remembered by what they have done.

Story of the mountain climber who fell -

Building for Eternity

Text. 2 Corinthians 13 - 18

Because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen, for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Christians all over the world are faced with a challenge, the challenge of deciding what in the lives of each one is transient and what is lasting. We hear so much these days about the "group," group activity, group sports, group undertaking, of various sorts. All good if good leadership is provided but the tendency is to let George do it and usually although it may be group activity it is George's will that is being done.

In the face of all the worlds speed and activity the Christian may well find himself perplexed. What is the right thing to do, what is the right step to take, for step we must, we cannot stand still, what if the venture we embark upon fails or what if we take the wrong path. Fearful of doing the wrong thing we end up doing nothing. Perhaps this is what group activity leads us into. We have given up our individualism for the good of the group and now find ourselves facing issues that seemingly are unsolvable.

2
Have we been too engrossed in looking at the things we can see which are transient and have neglected the unseen which is eternal. It seems as if we have. We appear to live in an age of excess. Gross materialism on the one hand and great dissatisfaction with what we possess or acquire on the other.

It is so easy for a speaker to get up and parade before his audience all the things that are wrong with the world in our day and age. He could continue for one an hour and never once repeat himself. But when asked a blunt "why" are these things so he finds himself hard put for an answer, simply because we are all involved as a group and like lost sheep we keep milling around the fold looking for the shepherd. So used to being led we walk or run or rush right past the obvious way out.

Perhaps if we ceased for a while looking at the things we can see and think for a while about the unseen we might vision the eternal. "But I am so busy, there is so much on these days. I've got to take part & do my bit, there just isn't time enough in the day. We've all heard these remarks, and yet perhaps that is the hardest thing for us to do, squeeze in enough time to stop and think and then do. That is the answer for all of us

And that is the question on the lips of many: "I am only one, what can I do!"

It might be well if we could drop the notion that we are tradesmen only in this world and look upon ourselves as builders. But builders of what we are asked, builders for Eternity is the answer. That is something we all could do - if we would. Are we willing to sacrifice a lot of our material possessions or the future acquisition of them to enable us to give more time and thought as to what goes on in the world and not only the physical world but the spiritual as well. The two are inextricably bound together under the will of God. But the physical is seen and the spiritual unseen and yet it is the spiritual that is eternal.

It is when we react on impulse to its spiritual in each one of us that good is done. True we may be laughed at by others for our impulsive act or be derided because the fruits of our endeavours are not what we hoped but good is done, a step is taken and the world is just that much better for us being in it. It has been said that if each one of us did something nice for or to some other person each day of our lives, said some kind word or gave smiling help it would mean that 365 people would have been touched by our spirit in one year. If we lived for fifty years, (and a great many people exceed that in North America), it would mean that we had in one fashion or another touched ^{not} 18,000 people. Well we can prove any thing by statistics. Like the young lad replied when asked to define the term said well it's a lot of figures you add up to get an answer and when you get it it aint so

We all have the human desire to be remembered either by the material possessions we accumulate during our lifetime or by our various achievements in art, literature, or social work or the professions.

Is the man of great wealth remembered long outside of his own immediate circle, rather it is the men like Pasteur, Banting, women like Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell who sacrificed their time and their lives for the good of humanity whose names are writ in the annals of time.

We think that we can do so little and yet we can do so much if we will and if we are willing, no great fun will be made of us little or any credit may be given us but if we are willing to sacrifice some of our own restlessness & desire the spiritual need in our lives & those around us we will have started to build for eternity.