

Let us listen to each other

May we be ministers, Lord, of these congregations.

Luke 12 33-34 K.V.

P.P. 31 Prayers P.P. 71 P. 105

Sell what you have, & give alms, so providing yourselves with a purse that time cannot wear holes in, an inexhaustible treasure laid up in Heaven, where no thief comes near, no moth consumes. When your treasure house is there your heart is too."

Our Father, we ask you to be with us in all our deliberations tonight, we ask for wisdom to listen to each other, forbearance to what we think is fault in our brothers and knowledge to where we ourselves have strayed.

Oh God and Father of all mankind whose ministry is the world and the universe around us, we ask thee in all humility to teach us to ~~be~~ ministers in thy work to treat each day as a divine new gift

For all thy great gifts and many blessings to all men Lord we give thee thanks for the perplexities and tribulations we face give us strength to endure and emerge stronger men and women with greater faith and understanding in Thine everlasting love.

We ask thy blessing on our minister and his family, may we ever recall the good he is trying to do among us and ever remember the aid of material we are with which he has to work.

24/.

We ask Thy strength for him in the silent hours when the weight of our carelessness and neglect would seem to cancel all his effort. Give us knowledge Oh Lord that we are all Thy ministers in this your world.

We pray that in the coming years we may be faithful stewards of all the talents thou hast given us, that we put people before possessions and love and pity before property, that we may work together in the best interests of effective ministry by our congregations to the end that all our effort will be to glorify thee and further Thy Kingdom on earth.

3/ materially the more unhappy we become. Breaking down the humanity-imposed barriers to change and fresh thoughts, has plagued men for centuries. How you deal with young people who have never had a chance to try anything I'm sure I wouldn't know. I still remember you telling me of some of the ones you were trying to 'get with' God and I feel sure that some of the reason behind their withdrawal is that their parents, guardians or what, have had no vision to pass on to their offspring, and "where there is no vision the people perish." There were never truer words spoken than those, except perhaps "I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

One of the stumbling blocks in the road of our Christian progress is the changes in our ministry. Human nature changes, but not as quickly as man's technological development demands. We change our ministers every two or three years, either he moves out of sheer discouragement, or his congregation moves him because he is not attracting attendance at church and the good old material collection plate is suffering. So he or she moves on just when the slow human process of the spiritual is beginning to take notice and an individual here or there is beginning to change himself. So it goes! The fellow who is beginning to see, dimly, some light ahead is suddenly captured by the lantern & he

becomes discouraged all over again. Man comes to his ~~spiritual~~ feet slowly. I think that is what God intends. In our rushing world the growth of the spirit has to compete with the mass push and hysteria of material achievement and the words of our Lord, "Man cannot live by bread alone" are ignored, in; "Give me bread and more of it!!" The echo in the tumult of material drive.

You are dealing with young people who have probably heard very very little about the Master in their growing years, so it is evangelism all over again, generation after generation. Even the years that have brought wisdom and decision to grandparents are brushed aside and for a young person to hear "God is dead" being shouted about by morons whom they have heard their parents discuss as very wise men is just an invitation to forget all about this God they have heard so little about and who at the best seems to be bent on enforcing behaviour that is contrary to their wishes and physical senses. My guess is that in the last two years Gordon Sinclair and Pierre Berton are names that have been heard more often in Canadian homes and extolled before young, acquisitive, growing minds, than even the name Jesus or The Christ except perhaps as oaths and blasphemy.

Sermon points.

I can put one healthy, holy life into
the world - my own.

I can guide my child but I cannot
compel him or her to be good.

I can change myself if I so desire.
I can cease heading into the wind.
I can turn and go with it making
it of use to me instead of a hindrance.

The other day at the lake I watched
a sail boat almost sail into the wind.
The skill of her pilot was marvellous. But
he always used the wind. He never headed
directly into it. Our lives are like that. If
we are determined to head into trouble we shall
certainly end up in trouble. But if we are
determined to make adversity help us we will
find we can navigate.

16 "I could do all my work at school

the morning hours if I put myself at it and I

know I'm not one of the bright ones in my school. It

would be likely to have the afternoon off to play

and give up a lot he would and think or just

he would. My chums in school think the same

17 "There is talk of competition in the school!

There no competition in this system. The school

wants to get ahead & put himself into his lessons

just has to sit back & wait for others to catch up.

of want to get up early in the morning and study

then I have to sit around on my hands all those

being have in school with another chap come to

his desk eating his breakfast loud. My dad says the

is a fine gentleman country. That's the side. 18