

REMINDER

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Andrew Murray
1828-1917

THE PRAYER LIFE

by Andrew Murray
(continued from last week)

Regarding the sin of prayerlessness, we've looked at: (1) What a reproach it is to God; (2) It is the cause of a deficient spiritual life, now let's consider -

3. The Dreadful Loss Which the Church Suffers as a Result of the Prayerlessness of the Minister

It is the business of a minister to train believers up to a life of prayer; but how can a leader do this if he himself understands little the art of conversing with God and of receiving from the Holy Spirit, every day, out of heaven, abundant grace for himself and for his work? A minister cannot lead a congregation higher than he is himself. He cannot with enthusiasm point out a way, or explain a work, in which he is not himself walking or living.

How many thousands of Christians there are who know next to nothing of the blessedness of prayer fellowship with God! How many there are who know something of it and long for a further increase of this knowledge, but in the preaching of the Word they are not persistently urged to keep on till they obtain the blessing! The reason is simply and only that the minister understands so little about the secret of powerful prayer and does not give prayer the place in his service which, in the nature of the case and in the will of God, is indispensably necessary. Oh, what a difference we should notice in our congregations if ministers could be brought to see in its right light the sin of prayerlessness and were delivered from it! Once more consider

4. The Impossibility of Preaching the Gospel to All Men-as We Are Commanded by Christ to Do - So Long as this Sin Is Not Overcome and Cast Out.

Many feel that the great need of missions is the obtaining of men and women who will give themselves to the Lord to strive in prayer for the salvation of souls. It has also been said that God is eager and able to deliver and bless the world he has redeemed, if his people were but willing, if they were but ready, to cry to him day and night. But how can congregations be brought to that unless there comes first an entire change in ministers and that they begin to see that the indispensable thing is not preaching, not pastoral visitation, not church work, but fellowship with God in prayer till they are clothed with power from on high?

Oh, that all thought and work and expectation concerning the kingdom might drive us to the acknowledgement of the sin of prayerlessness! God help us to root it out! God deliver us from it through the blood and power of Christ Jesus! God teach every minister of the Word to see what a glorious place he may occupy if he first of all is delivered from this root of evils; so that with courage and joy, in faith and perseverance, he can go on with his God!

The sin of prayerlessness! The Lord lay the burden of it so heavy on our hearts that we may not rest till it is taken far from us through the name and power of Jesus. He will make this possible for us.

A WITNESS FROM AMERICA

In 1898, there were two members of the Presbytery in New York who attended the Northfield Conference for the deepening of the spiritual life. They returned to their work with the fire of a new enthusiasm. They endeavoured to bring about a revival in the entire Presbytery. In a meeting which they held, the chairman was guided to ask the brethren a question concerning their prayer life: 'Brethren,' said he, 'let us today make confession before God and each other. It will do us good. Will everyone who spends half an hour every day with God in connection with his work hold up a hand?' One hand was held up. He made a further request: 'All who

(continued inside)

thus spend fifteen minutes hold up a hand.' Not half of the hands were held up. Then he said: 'Prayer, the working power of the Church of Christ, and half of the workers make hardly any use of it! All who spend five minutes hold up hands.' All hands went up. But one man came later with the confession that he was not quite sure if he spent five minutes in prayer every day. 'It is,' said he, 'a terrible revelation of how little time I spend with God.'

- more next week



Dr. John R. Rice
1895-1980

The Sevenfold Sin of Not Winning Souls

by the late Dr. John R. Rice
(continued from 09/04/11)

V. The Awful Sin of Dishonesty in a Sacred Trust

Those who do not win souls are guilty of dishonesty in a sacred trust. Dishonesty? Brother Rice, that sounds like one is crooked. That is exactly the point. Anybody who does not win souls is crooked.

In Romans 1:14,15 Paul says, ***"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."*** You are in debt, Paul?

"Yes," Paul said. "I got salvation which I didn't earn and couldn't pay for. I got it on credit, on the mercy of God. I'm going to Heaven when I ought to be in Hell. He called me to preach. I'm not worthy."

If you are saved like Paul, you got salvation by God's mercy. You didn't deserve it. How much in debt you and I are!

Will you admit that you got salvation you didn't deserve, couldn't pay for and didn't earn? Well, you are in debt then, aren't you? This is a Gospel for the rest of the folks too, and you are dishonest if you don't pass it on.

Matthew 25 tells of a man who took a far journey and he left his goods with his servants and provided for them.

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods....every man according to his several ability" (vs. 14,15). When the man returned, one servant told him, 'I worked hard. I made five talents into ten.'

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (vs. 21).

The second servant came and said, 'I worked hard and made two talents into four.'

The lord said to him also, ***"Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (vs. 23).***

Another fellow with one talent returned it, saying, 'Here is your talent. I knew you were a hard man, so I took your talent and hid it in the earth.'

And the lord said to him, 'You wicked and slothful servant. If you didn't want to risk this money, why didn't you put it in the bank so I could at least have earned some interest on the money?' He called him wicked and slothful—crooked and lazy! He didn't bring anything in on the investment made on him.

If you don't win souls, you are wicked. God has a lot invested in you—the precious blood of Jesus, the wooing of the Holy Spirit, the writing of the Bible, the preaching of the men of God, Mother's prayers. Shouldn't God get a little back on His investment? If you do not pay some back to God by spreading the Gospel, then you are dishonest in a sacred trust.

Dr. H. A. Ironside once sent a sermon for the Sword of the Lord with a note on the back of a handbill that was advertising some meetings he was going to have. The note said, "Just trying to pay my debt to my brethren."

You have a debt to pay too, and you are dishonest if you don't pay it. God has a right to some soul-winning effort from you. Don't be dishonest in a sacred trust.

VI. The Sinful Folly of a Shortsighted Fool

You mean a man is a fool if he doesn't win souls? Yes sir. He is putting his money, his time, his energy where it won't bring much reward or do much good. Listen to Proverbs 11:30, ***"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."*** The soul winner is wise, because he is going to reap for eternity.

We read in Daniel 12:3, ***"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*** Who are wise? They that win many souls!

I may be nobody much now, but if God in His mercy be willing, I will be somebody in the next world. Somebody will be at the gate to meet me. When some of you get there, you will have to hire a taxicab and get a map of the city to find your shack out in the suburbs. I want to have a brass band of praise when I get there.

At a filling station in Dallas one day, I asked the attendant, "How are you today?"

He replied, "Well, if you really want to know, I'm the biggest fool in Dallas."

I asked, "Why is that?"

"I got my pay last night and went on a big bender. I don't remember a thing, and when I woke up this morning, this was all I had from a week's wages." He pulled out a few coins. "I have to pay my landlady today, and I don't have the money. All I've got is a guilty conscience and a dark brown taste in my mouth. Of all the fools in Dallas, I'm the biggest."

I said, "I'll say amen to that."

A lot of you Christians are like that. You think of food for the belly and clothes for the back and a new-model car and

wall-to-wall carpeting and four bedrooms and two baths. A heathen has that much sense. You had better put your money and your time where you will have a real reaping someday.

I'm only an evangelist, and everybody knows an evangelist isn't anybody much. I don't have money laid aside, and I don't have life insurance, but I have some put away where thieves don't break through and steal.

In Japan some years ago, I preached through an interpreter in a revival meeting for a missionary. I preached on the Prodigal Son, and God was there in power. Five people came forward to be saved. Only one of them had ever heard the Gospel before, so we took about half an hour to make sure these five understood it. They had come to the meeting after working for eleven hours in a rice paddy, and now it was late.

As we went outside, the missionary said, "I want you to meet this young man who interpreted for you. He is your grandson in the ministry."

My booklet "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" had been translated into Japanese, and we had about four million copies of it published in Japan. In the first six months after the first printing, missionaries received letters from 2,800 Japanese who had trusted Christ as Saviour, and they followed them up.

One of those booklets had gotten into the hands of a man who was serving a life sentence in prison. He read that he could be born again and could have a new heart, that God would forgive him, that he could be a Christian and go to Heaven.

He believed it and trusted the Lord and was saved. A wonderful transformation took place. The guard began to say, "You ought not to be in jail."

It wasn't long until the warden and the guards all talked about him: "He is a better man than any of us. He shouldn't be here." The warden went to the judge and recommended that they turn the man loose, and they did.

One afternoon the former convict came upon a young man in the park who had his head in his hands. He asked, "What is the matter?"

"I wish I were dead! I slashed my wrists, but they rushed me to the hospital and saved me. I then got out of bed and beat my head on the brick wall. I was put in a straight jacket and strapped in bed until I got well. I'm an alcoholic, but I wish I were dead."

This former prisoner said, "You need what I got." He showed him this booklet and began to tell him about how to be saved.

"That doesn't sound reasonable."

"Come to the missionary, and he will tell you."

He talked to the missionary and was saved. That is the man who interpreted for me that night.

While the missionary was telling me that, the young evangelist was talking in Japanese with his hands held high. The only word I could understand was "Hallelujah!" He rejoiced to meet the man who had written the little booklet that won his friend and him to Christ. My spiritual grandson! Bless God!

Many people curse me now. I preach plain and make people

mad. But I'm going to have people who will be glad to see me when I get to Heaven!

What a fool anybody is who spends his time making money and on these other things! It is the folly of a shortsighted fool not to win souls.

VII. Not to Win Souls Is the Sin of Bloodguilt—Spiritual Manslaughter

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul" (Ezekiel 3:17-19).

If Ezekiel did not warn the Israelites about their iniquity and they died in their sins, God required their blood at his hand. What a staggering thought that God says to a man about sinners, "***His blood will I require at thine hand!***" But if Ezekiel warned the wicked, even if the wicked did not turn, then God said, "***Thou hast delivered thy soul.***"

That strange commission was given to Ezekiel for the nation of Israel, but surely it implies that God still holds people to account for the souls of those that they do not warn! Surely we are guilty of the blood of every poor lost soul who goes to Hell if we had a chance to warn him, to weep over him, to woo him tenderly and win him and get him to come to Christ, and we did not!

Paul had this in mind when he came to Miletus and had the elders of Ephesus meet him there. Solemnly facing these preachers, Paul told them that they would see his face no more, and then said, "***Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26,27).*** Then he said again, "***Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31).***

Paul could solemnly say, 'After three years in Ephesus, I have no blood on my hands! I have gone night and day with tears, publicly and from house to house, carrying the whole counsel of God. I am not to blame if anybody goes to Hell!'

O Christian, is there blood on your hands? Are you guilty of the death of immortal souls for whom Christ died, because you did not warn them?

When a boat overturned in a Chinese river, a missionary urged some nearby Chinese fishermen to bring their boat quickly and help him rescue a man who was drowning. The fishermen insisted on a price of fifty dollars before they would come. The missionary gave them all he had and at last persuaded them to help him, but it was too late. The callous hearts of the fishermen took no responsibility for their drowning countryman, but they were guilty of murder, as certain as there is a God in Heaven to hold men to

account!

But are you much different, Christian, when you let people near you go to Hell and never warn them, weep over them and see that they have the Gospel?

In Roosevelt, Oklahoma, I promised to go see a dying woman who was distressed about her soul. But I waited until the second day, and she died before I ever saw her.

In Dallas, Texas, an elderly man wrote, saying, "I am dying with cancer, and I am not ready to die. Brother Rice, please come and pray with me." But I had so many burdens that I postponed it. After two weeks I sent a young preacher to visit the old man, but a neighbor told the young preacher that the old man had died and the family were then gone to his funeral!

I hope that in their extremity these two people turned to the Lord, but I have no certainty at all. What will I say to the Lord Jesus when I see Him, if He asks me to give an account for the souls of these two who sent for me and I did not get there in time?

The sin of not winning souls is the bloodguilty sin of soul-manslaughter. I beg you in Jesus' name, consider how guilty you must be in God's sight if you do not put your very best and all your heart's strength and love into the one precious business of soul winning!

So, Christian, if you do not win souls, you are not right with God. You may be saved, but you are not a good disciple. If you follow the Saviour at all, you follow afar off.

Consider again this sevenfold sin of failing to win souls. It is the sin of disobedience, of lack of love, of failing to follow Christ, of not abiding in Christ, of dishonesty in a sacred trust, of shortsighted folly, and of bloodguilt for which we must give an account.

May God convict us of our sin in not winning the souls who are dying all around us! ■

AND THE PEOPLE GAVES..

Week of September 18, 2010

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 775.00
Insurance Fund -----	\$ 3.00
Total Received for Week of 09/18/11:	\$ 778.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER:

Monthly Requirement -----	\$ 273.08
Amount Received during September thusfar -----	\$ 14.00
Amount still needed by Oct. 5, 2011:	- \$ 259.08

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Vicki Martin
	Cradle Roll 2: Lou Martin
6:30 p.m. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
	Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
Wed. Evening Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
	Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Mickie Shatwell, Janelle Diehl -----	Pianists
Dickie Eberle -----	Greeter, Custodian
Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White -----	S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin, Don Diehl -----	Outreach
Flowers -----	Hannah and Shirley White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME..

Week of September 18, 2011

Sunday School -----	22
Sunday Morning Service -----	30
Sunday Evening Service -----	26
Wed. Eve., 09/21/11 Service -----	22

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