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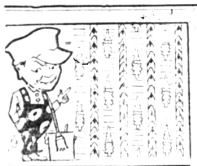

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THE PULPIT OF THE PRESS

A Series Of Weekly Preachments By the Clergy Of Birmingham.

By Rev. D. H. Curry,
Pastor of the Community Church, Eco City

"PROFANITY"

We have reached the time of the year when the business men of our land are stopping long enough to take stock of their possessions. Some of goods now on counters and shelves and storehouses will be offered for sale at prices below actual cost. No, these men do not intend to go out of business. As a matter of fact these wise men intend to stay in business. They are making preparations for doing a larger volume of business in 1925 than in any year of their previous career. They are not in business for profit alone nor are they selling goods below cost in order to be counted as real, charitable, tender-hearted good-fellows. They are disposing of these lines of goods or items of merchandise for a number of reasons that are very clear to themselves. Perhaps they intend to keep their invested capital below a certain figure; or, they may intend to sell another brand of goods; or, they may find certain odds and ends of excellent lines that they wish to sell before the arrival of the new goods. The wisest of the wise will find some articles that are not selling in their place of business as rapidly at they hoped and they will be making a place for the better selling articles.

These are wise men and successful because they refuse to retain that which does not pay good interest on their investment. They are removing the things that they find it unprofitable to retain. They may even find a few things that have cost them real money and honest effort to obtain, for which there is absolutely no market or place of profitable disposal. These things will be destroyed.

What these men are wisely doing in the business world, we all should do in the realm of our personal life and habits and motives. We should honestly ask ourselves the question, "Was this thing a paying proposition in the past; is it paying now; will it pay in the future?" If we find things in our lives that are unprofitable to us, and to others destructive and dangerous, I am sure that you will agree that we should banish these things from the realm of our lives as the business men banish the unprofitable things from their places of trade.

One of the chief offenders in this class of undesirable habits is that of profane speech. Far too often we have evidence of its baneful presence in the business, educational, home and community life. We can see or understand why some people may break the law when they steal to satisfy their hunger; or why they lie in their attempt to escape the consequences of a previous act; or why they may break the moral code in yielding to an evil passion. We can understand that there may be circumstances that mitigate the offense without excusing the offender but we cannot see or understand why anyone, without any hope of gain or reward and without any urge from without, will continue to fling insults into the face of God by profaning the organs of speech with which He has endowed them and polluting the atmosphere with pernicious language. Did you ever notice that every man who has any real manhood about him, will refrain from profanity in the presence of his mother or of anyone else whom they esteem highly? Did you notice that it is only in the lowest strata of the social world that men will use profanity in the presence of the one he is seeking for a companion for life? Did you notice that when these men of profane speech associate with those they know are the real people of God, they can and do refrain from evil speech? But listen. Is it true that men who are profaners have more respect for these mentioned above than for God Himself? Doesn't it seem that way? All of us need to keep in mind constantly that we are in one of two classes, either profane in speech, or pure of speech.

A lecturer who was an infidel was speaking to a class of children and wrote on the blackboard, "God is nowhere." A little child, spoke up and said to him, "Please, mister, you made a mistake in the punctuation of that sentence." He called the child up to correct it and she wrote, "God is now here." As we listen to the language used by many in the daily walks of life and channels of inter-communication, wouldn't it seem that there are far too large a number of people who, by their language would lead us to believe that they, like that infidel, were saying, "God is nowhere."

Let us urge now in closing that we take stock of our language, among other things and may we add,—before all else, and if there is anything in the expressions that we are accustomed to use that are harmful, impure, irreverent, let us classify these among the profane and unprofitable things that, by the grace of the pure and holy God, will have no place in our lives during 1925 for, when we calmly take stock of the thing, profanity is senseless and base and degrading for it is frowned upon by good men and forbidden by God.

A young man was standing in the presence of a number of companions and another man came into the group and said, "Fellows I just heard a good story. Let me tell it to you." He then looked around as he smiled and added, "If there are no ladies present." The young man aforementioned stepped forward and said, "No, Bill, there are no ladies present but God is present. If you can tell your story in His presence, I am sure we will be glad to hear it." Bill left his story untold, for it was not fit to be told.

For the sake of the children in the homes; for the sake of the scholars in our schools; for the sake of the other men and women in the marts of trade and business, will you not be followers, in thought, speech and deed, of Him who said, "Swear not at all," and, "For every unprofitable word that men shall speak, they shall give an account in the day of judgment," and, "By thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Second Scholarship Essay Contest Ready

Today William Wilson Brashear of Royal Oak High School is a student in the University of Michigan as a result of winning one of the five $1,000 scholarships of the Union Trust Company of Detroit. For 1925 another similar opportunity awaits some high school senior of either parochial or public schools of the county.

The second annual essay contest to be held under the $5,000 Scholarship Foundation of the Union Trust Company was announced by Mr. Frank W. Blair, president of the company. The subject will be "Home Ownership" and the contest is open to senior pupils of public and parochial high schools of Detroit, and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

The conditions will be almost identical with those of 1923-24, which awarded $1,000 in cash each to five senior high school students who are now attending standard colleges. Silver and bronze medals and engraved certificates of merit were also awarded to 16 others.

The judges will be Edwin Denby; the Very Rev. Warren L. Rogers, dean of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, and Clarence A. Lightner, of the firm of Lightner, Oxtoby, Hanley & Crawford.

All essays are to be completed by March 12th and turned over to the faculties of the respective schools who will conduct eliminations until 21 essays are ready to be submitted to the Union Trust Company on April 9. These will go to the judges with names of the contestants and their schools deleted. The awards will be announced the last week in May or the first week in June.

"We think interested observers will be impressed with the theme, 'Home Ownership,'" said Mr. Blair. "It is a subject of vital interest to each community and represents, we believe, the very heart of social welfare and individual thrift. While not essentially a banking subject, it is truly economic as well as social."

B'ham Loses Debate With Romeo Friday

The debate between Baldwin high school and Romeo last week which took place at Romeo, Friday evening resulted in the defeat of Birmingham's team by a vote of 3 to nothing. The judges were G. C. Seldon, principal of the junior high school in Pontiac, and the superintendents of schools from New Haven and Oxford, the judge from New Haven taking the place of the superintendent from Orion, who was obliged to withdraw at the last minute.

The Birmingham debaters, Kathryn Butler, Kenneth Green, and Margaret Howard, presented the affirmative side of the question of Philippine independence. This was the same team which won the debate with Clawson several weeks ago.

There will be two more preliminary debates, the next one in January with Birmingham's negative team taking the field this time. If the local debaters win both of the next two debates, Birmingham will be eligible for the elimination debates which will take place in the spring.

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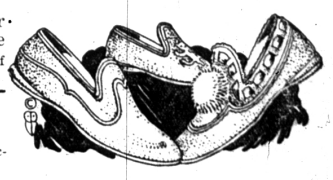

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