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BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE VALUE OF TRAINING

By: C. D. Cole

SURELY no one needs any argument for the value of training. We could make it stronger and speak of the necessity of training. It is not only a thing of value, but also of necessity. There is nothing more generally recognized in all fields of human endeavor than the need of training. This felt need has dotted the earth with schools of all kinds. Who wants a man operating on him for appendicitis except one who has been to a medical school and has been trained in surgery? Who wants a man filing or filling his teeth except one who has been trained in dentistry? Who wants someone filling his doctor's prescription who has not been trained in pharmacy? Who wants his child to go to a teacher who has not been trained in the art of teaching?

Now when we come to the realm of religion is there to be any exception? Do we want a man preaching to us who does not know his Bible? Do we want a person to preach to us who cannot read or speak the English language; who does not know the meaning of Bible words in the English version? Do we want a

person preaching to us who does not know the difference between may and can; shall and will; who doesn't know to distinguish between such words as justification, regeneration, sanctification, adoption, repentance, faith, and so on?

God calls men to special work, but He does not train them. Training is their own responsibility. God regenerates but He does not educate. In the miracle and mystery of regeneration God makes a spiritual person with a capacity for spiritual discernment, and in the Bible He has given us spiritual truth, but this truth must be studied and systematized before it can be properly presented. God gives inspiration, but this inspiration apart from study will result in a loud noise and a confused audience.

We need books. Every Christian needs a library. Dictionary, concordance, theology, and commentary—these are essentials—

these are the minimum for anybody who wants to serve God as a witness and soul-winner, "Give attendance to reading" was Paul's injunction to Timothy in his first Epistle. In the second he said, "Bring the books, especially the parchments." Spurgeon said, "The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted; he who will not use other men's brains proves that he has no brains of his own."

THE TRUE OBJECTIVE

Every person needs an objective in life; he needs to aim at something. A man without an objective is like a ship without a rudder, a marksman without a target, a compass without a needle, a clock without hands. But it is not enough to have an objective. We must have the right objective; we must aim at the right thing. The rifle of our personality must aim at the right target. The objective of most of us is

The servant of Christ will meet with many disappointments. He will often feel that all his labour has been for nought. He will often feel that it never enters anybody's head that he ought to obey what is preached. But if his objective is the honour of Christ and the glory of His cause, he will keep on trying to win men to trust and love Him, he will keep on pleading with believers to put Christ first in their lives.

purely selfish and materialistic, compounded of material things such as money and fame and personal pleasure. No one can have the right objective in life who is not saved. Unless and until the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit take over and make you a new creature in which you become nothing and Christ becomes everything, you will not have the right objective. Until a man sees himself as a mighty sinner and Jesus as a mighty Saviour; until he falls out with self and falls in with Him, his objective will be wrong.

A man's objective reveals the state of his heart and shows what he is interested in. We need to quiz ourselves along this line. Just where are my interests? Where is my heart anyway? What am I living for? If God should make a report to us of His analysis of our interests, might He not say: "You seek nothing but your own, and not the things of Jesus Christ"?

PAUL'S OBJECTIVE

Philippians 1:21, "*To me to live is Christ; to die is gain.*" To him life meant an opportunity to serve and honor Christ and proclaim His Gospel. This man had a revolutionary experience. He was a changed man, not so much morally, but towards Jesus. He once rejected Jesus of Nazareth as an imposter; he now trusts Him as Saviour. He once hated Him with Pharisaic zeal; he now loves Him with Christian passion. He once persecuted Jesus; he now is glad to suffer persecu-

tion for His sake. He once tried to tear down His church; he now labors to build it up.

Paul did not say to live is gain. If this had been his objective he would not have suffered as he did. He once said, I Corinthians 15:19, "*If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable.*" But he could say, II Timothy 2:12, "*If we suffer with him we shall also reign with him.*" When he spoke of gain it was to come on the other side: to die is gain.

RESULTS OF SUCH AN OBJECTIVE

What will happen if I make Christ and His honor my objective? How can we make this our objective? It will take a deep experience of grace. We are too shallow in our experience of grace. But suppose the truth of what Christ has done for me to save me grips me and holds me; suppose I meditate on His being made a curse for me, of His being punished by God for what I have done; suppose I see in Him my one and only hope of escape from the awful fire of hell; suppose I ponder what it cost Him to redeem me; suppose I follow Him through the awful ordeal of paying my sin debt and look upon His agonies: I see men smite Him and spit on Him; I see soldiers mock Him and the motley crowd deride Him; I hear Him cry that God has forsaken Him; and realizing that it was done for me, I fall on my face and say: "O God, keep me true to Him; let me live to serve Him; let me win lost men to trust and love Him;

and develop the saved to serve Him, then I begin to see what it is to say, "*To live is Christ.*" But what effect will this have on my life?

1. It will make me conscious of the need of divine strength to follow such an objective. No man is sufficient of himself to pursue such an objective, and nobody ought to make it boastfully, but tremblingly and humbly. Left to himself, every believer will be turned aside from such a path either with kisses or kicks unless we are grace-girded and spirit-supported.

Paul wanted to be bold and unashamed in the day of danger. He was a prisoner of Nero and his case would soon come up. He shrank at the thought of the ordeal and hoped he would remain firm and uncompromising. He did not want them to break his spirit and cause him to deny Christ. And he tells the Philippians he believed he would be saved from deserting Christ when the crisis comes, and that it would be in answer to their prayers and a supply of the Spirit of Christ.

2. This objective, when accompanied with prayer, will keep us from giving up when we are not appreciated. Who has not complained that his work was not appreciated? Teachers and public servants of all kinds have felt that their efforts were not appreciated and duly rewarded. Parents have felt their children did not appreciate the sacrifices they made for them. Pastors have felt that they do not have the cooperation from their people they

ought to have. The servant of Christ will meet with many disappointments. He will often feel that all his labour has been for nought. He will often feel that it never enters anybody's head that he ought to obey what is preached. But if his objective is the honour of Christ and the glory of His cause, he will keep on trying to win men to trust and love Him, he will keep on pleading with believers to put Christ first in their lives.

3. This objective will keep us from smarting under personal slights and insults. It will keep us from letting personalities enter into our work. There is ever the danger that we will take personal offence instead of resenting the offence as against Christ and His Church. It is said of Christ that the reproaches of them that re-proached God fell on Him. He resented it as being against God instead of Himself. We ought to regard sin as the awful thing it is, not because it is against us but against God.

A true man, faithful husband will resent an offence against his wife more than against himself, I think most of us need some probing and prodding here. Does it hurt us to have people come into the church and ignore it or abuse it because it is against us? Does it hurt our personal pride, or does it hurt because Christ is dishonored?

We must always remember the purpose for which God saved us I Peter 2:9, "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a*

peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." Praise Him for living a perfect life for us which is imputed to us when we believe. Praise Him for the gospel (good news) that tells us about His dying for our sins. Praise Him for His precious promises that will all be fulfilled in the future. I Corinthians 15:1-4, "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

I Peter 3:15-17, "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: [16] Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing,"* gives the reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. Colossians 1:23, "*If ye continue in the*

faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;" is the hope of the gospel. The gospel is declared in I Corinthians 15:1-4, "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."* Romans 1:16-17, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* This is the gospel believed.

Bryan Station Baptist Church

Revival

Tuesday-Thursday, March 26-28, 7pm

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Friday, March 29, 7:30pm

Sunday, March 31

Evangelist: Brother Ron Crisp

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
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 Phone 859.299.9164
 Web Site: www.bryanstation.com
 Email: mail@bryanstation.com
 Brent K. Spears, Pastor

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:
Sunday Morning Devotion— 9:40 a.m.
Sunday School—10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship—11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship—6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service—7 p.m.

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