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ADDRESS TO CHRISTIAN WORKERS

I DO NOT WISH to try to stir up men to work for God until they are first saved, until they have first accepted salvation as a gift. A man cannot work his way into Heaven. A man cannot even do anything to please God, until he has first believed in Christ, and accepted salvation through Him. Let me read from Galatians 2:16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Then we find in Romans 4:4: "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt." But after we are saved we cannot help going to work. If a man tells me he has been saved by Christ, and yet has no desire to work for God, I know it is a spurious conversion; it is not a true salvation; it has not got the ring of Heaven in it.

The first words of which we have record that fell from the lips of Christ on earth were: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" You will find too that during His ministry He toiled early and late in the work. A man may say he has faith, but if he has not works he has only a dead faith. You cannot have faith without works; you cannot have fire without heat. Do not let these men that are not willing to lift their little fingers to help God's cause — do not let them think they are going to Heaven only because they have a pew in church, and criticize the minister; and if a minister touches their conscience in any guilty spot they want to get a new one — that minister does not suit them! Those men are deceiving themselves. If a man has not got a spirit of work, he has not got the spirit of Christ or righteousness. The mind that has been born of God is not in that man.

THREE KINDS OF FRUIT

John 15 says: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." There are one or two things in this chapter I would call your attention to. It says, "fruit," "more fruit," and "much fruit" — three kinds; there is another, "no fruit." I believe there is a good deal of pruning that would not have to be done to us if we abided in Christ. He that abides in Christ brings forth much fruit. But we fall off and are fickle and need pruning, so then the knife must be put in. The gardener must clip his fruit trees if he wants

them to bear. So God has to prune us. Instead of our murmuring and complaining about it, we ought to go to work to put forth more and more fruit. How many have lost their children, and afterward have gone to work earnestly for the first time for the Lord! Before they lost their children, they worked and lived wholly for them, spending all their time to accumulate money for them. God took their children to Him for their own sake as well as for their parents' sake — to lift them higher. No one who has read the Scripture will say that it does not teach us to work.

EVERY BIBLE STUDENT LOVES TO WORK

The Word of God inspires us to work. Paul said the love of Christ constrained him. Jeremiah said the Word of God burned in his bones. He fed upon it and it was sweet to his taste. If a man gets his heart full of the Word of God, he is not then interested just in one little corner of the vineyard, but he will take a wide field of labor and interest. He will rejoice to hear of a conversion in any and every part of the world. He will be glad to hear of God's work among all denominations of Christians — among Baptists, among Methodists, among Presbyterians. The moment he hears the Word of God taught, he comes out of the sectarian world and is interested to have the cause of God advanced in all parts of the world. His interest is not confined to the prosperity of his own little sect, but it goes out toward every good work.

A man was taken sick, and while he lay there, someone sent him a bunch of flowers.

He said if he had known how much good it would do to a sick man, he would have sent some when he was well. A great many do not know how much good they can do until they have been tried, and have been tried to their sorrow. If we will look around us day after day, we will find many a good thing to do. We ought to pray every day that we may wipe away tears of suffering from someone's face that very day. If we are going to help the poor widow and those fatherless children, we must do it now. God has sent us here to make the world brighter and better, and to help those that carry burdens. Someone said the world seemed like two mountains — a mountain of joy and a mountain of sorrow — and if every day we can take a little from the mountain of sorrow to the mountain of joy we might be better and do better. "He that waters, himself shall be watered." Every one of us should study how we can be a blessing to others. Those of you who are going 'round with your hearts sad and cast down, if you go to work and try to help others, then your burdens will be gone and the light will shine in your souls.

A PECULIAR PEOPLE

In Titus 2:14 it says: "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." I think we do not like to be considered peculiar. We are very much afraid of that. We want to be like the world, and mingle with the world, and try to be like the world, so that people won't

consider us peculiar. People do not like that. I hear people say sometimes, "Yes, she is a good woman, but" — with a shrug or a grimace — "she is very peculiar." "Yes, a very good man— yes, oh, yes, but very peculiar." I would just like to make one journey around the world to see if I could find one church made up of peculiar people. That church would shake the whole world. That is what we want — peculiarity.

Christ taught us that He will make us a peculiar people, zealous of all good works. The very thing we do not like is the very thing we want today. Elijah was the most peculiar man of his day, but he was worth more than all those one hundred thousand people around him. He held the keys of Heaven. He could stand before Ahab, and his whole court, and all his false prophets. God was with him. Enoch was the most peculiar man that lived in his day. I suppose they all pointed to him and said, "Yes, yes, a good man, but very peculiar — different from other people."

Daniel was the most peculiar man Babylon ever had. If we could only have a few peculiar people now we would see wonderful results. If God has a great work to do, He will call some peculiar man to do it. A man who sets his back upon the world, and sets his face like a flint toward Heaven, is a man that is peculiar, and God can use him and speak through him.

A HELP TO EVERY GOOD WORK

The great trouble with many is that we

don't get ourselves out of sight. We ought to let the name of Christ be kept in sight, and ever watch for Him, and then we are ready to work for the Lord in any position. Now turn to Titus 3:8: "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." Now, if I understand that portion of Scripture, it means that you are to be a help to every good work, every good society. Don't say, "O God, bless my little field." Is the Tract Society a good society? I believe that it is. Let us do all we can to keep it up, and I hope the time is coming, and I hope I will live to see the day, and I believe I will, when these wealthy men will be seeking investments for the Lord as they do for themselves. It will do perhaps for these ungodly men to accumulate these millions, but when a man has been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb and is jealous of good work I think he ought to be seeking some investments for the Lord. Is this society a good society? Then maintain it. Keep it up. Look at the societies you have got in New York, that are just bleeding at every pore, suffering for the want of money; look at the churches saddled with debt. Many men are not willing to get into debt themselves, but they will let the Lord's work suffer.

Says Paul: "Be careful that you maintain good work." Instead of cutting down missionaries in a foreign land, I think it would be

better for us to cut off some of our own luxury.

Hard times are the very best times that could happen to the church. I don't believe we would have had such a blessing in New York if it had not been for these hard times. When men get their millions and hoard them up, I think it is the very best thing that can happen to them to have the Lord come and take them away, and if a man maintains these good works with his money he will never lose it, but lay it up in Heaven. People say that such a man died worth so many millions. It doesn't make any difference how much a man accumulates. He can't die worth anything, for he leaves it here. He is not worth a penny; and so, if you want to save your money, lay it up in Heaven where thieves cannot get hold of it.

Make yourselves rich by thus investing in these good institutions; maintain good works; keep your Tract Society, your missions. Wouldn't it be a glorious day if, instead of our going around begging for money for these institutions, we could just sit in an office and have men send their checks. I have got tired and sick of going to men and begging for money. I hope the Lord of Heaven will stir up people so that they will be going around to see where they can invest their money. The ministers can tell them, for they know, and you that have money ought to consult them as to what is the best investment you can make. I want to be rich for eternity, not for time. But how blind and shortsighted

men are that are seeking to be rich just for time. Men accumulate millions just to make the way to Hell easy for their children. It is almost sure ruin for a child to be left in this world with money and nothing to do. You talk about the young ladies of this city whom you call so fortunate because they have got all the money they want and have nothing to do. It is *unfortunate*, I tell you, and they are ruined. I pity them from the bottom of my heart. It would be far better if they hadn't a penny. "Be careful," says Paul, "that you maintain good works." It is good advice. Let us take it.

BE ESTABLISHED

Now, what we want is to have men established. I have been connected for fifteen years — at least before I started out on this preaching tour—with a mission Sunday school, and I have noticed this, that the teachers who are at the Sunday school fifty-two Sundays in the year are constantly reaping. Those teachers who are not constantly established, and are only in Sunday school about six months, and then give up discouraged, and if there is something better offered give up their place, they never succeed. What we want is to be established in every word and work, and let us take up this word and work and do it thoroughly, and God's Word has gone out that we shall reap if we faint not.

I was very much interested some time ago in a young lady who lived in the city. I don't know her name, or I have forgotten it. She was about to go to China as the wife of

a missionary on his way to a heathen field. She had a large Sunday school class in the city and succeeded in bringing a blessing upon many of her scholars through her efforts. She was very anxious to get someone who would look after her little flock and take care of them while she was gone. She had a brother who was not a Christian, and her heart was set on his being converted and taking her place as leader of the class. The young man refused to accept Christ, but away in her closet alone she pleaded with God that her brother might be converted and take her place. She wanted to reproduce herself, and that is what every Christian ought to do — get somebody else converted to take up your work. Well, the last morning came, and around the family altar, as the moment drew near for the lady's departure (and they did not know when they should see her again), the father broke down, and the boy went upstairs. Just before she left for the train, the boy came down, and putting his arms around his sister's neck, said to her, "My dear sister, I will take your Saviour for mine, and I will take care of your class for you," and the young man took her class; and the last I heard of him he was filling her place. There was a young lady established in good work. When she left here she got someone to carry it on.

Let me say to you young converts who have just commenced a Christian life, find some work to do for the Master. Go out into the vineyard at once and get some work to do.

Just persevere, and if you don't see the fruit pretty near, and the work doesn't seem to prosper, go right on. Those Christians that get discouraged and disheartened, God never uses, and His kingdom is never built up through them. What we want is good courage to persevere.

USE YOUR TALENTS

Turn to Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Now the eyes of the whole Christian world are upon New York at the present time. They are looking to see just what you Christians are going to do, and if the work stops now, don't say it will be our fault. My dear friends, it will be your own. There has been no false excitement here. We have just preached the Gospel. To be sure, we have done it poorly, but it has been the same old Gospel. We have just held up Christ to the people, and if this work stops, bear in mind that it will be your own fault that you have not taken it up and carried it on. Thousands in this audience have got just as much ability and talent as I have or as Mr. Sankey has, if you would only use it. All you have to do is to bring out your talents that have lain dormant and use them.

God holds you responsible for your influence. Use whatever influence you have and bring it to bear upon your friends and upon those with whom you are acquainted, and do everything you can just to let your light shine; and let me say, Keep out of the world. But

you say you are in the world. You may be in the world but not of it, just as a ship is in the water but not of it. The moment the water begins to get into the ship, it sinks. You are in the world: don't let the world be in you. That is the difference.

I want to speak of one thing that has cheered me beyond measure since coming here, and that is the spirit of unity. We have not heard a word about denominations since I have been here. Thanks be to God, we are bound up in one bundle, and the moment we understand each other a little better we shall be able to do greater work, and the hosts of Heli will not prevail against us.