

Christ is Victor

MAR/APR 1999

“Finishing the Work”

“For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?”

Luke 14:28

This man began to build and was not able to finish.

Nobody wants such a comment to be passed about his efforts. An unfinished work is a very tragic thing. Even the most beautiful building on the drawing board if it is unfinished it will never look beautiful. We must be very careful.

Life is not for such a long span. How quickly 1998 is over! How do we know that this New Year 1999 is not our last year. It is human to think ‘we will do this, we will do that, there is time’. There is time and therefore they allow time to pass away and face the grave danger of an unfinished work. Some people leave an unfinished book. It is very difficult for one author to finish a book, which someone else had begun; likewise in other departments too. Has God given us a work? We should try to finish our work. Jesus Christ was sure that He had finished the work, which God gave Him. “I have finished

... “FINISHING” CON’T ON PAGE 2

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“Forging Forward”

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.”

Philippians 3:13

St. Paul is a positive thinker. Sound faith in Jesus makes us look forward always. There is no defeated mentality in St. Paul. He says, “I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me.” We must one day attain to this great consciousness. Our lips-prayers must become our heart-prayers. These two must become one. When these work together there will be faith, with no doubt in such a man. He will be a matured man in faith. We must be careful not to speak any insincere words to please men.

“Forgetting those things which are behind.” This is a further step to be reached. What are those things which are behind? Our failures are behind. Once we have humbly confessed our sins and been forgiven, we need not think of them and be discouraged. They must not prevent you from reaching forward to things before. Those who run the hundred yards sprint do not look back. They cannot win if they do so. The devil wants us to look back. When anyone has done us evil we must not think of it. As quickly as possible we must forgive and forget.

Evil will never succeed. We often think it does, and try to defend

ourselves against it. Evil is a defeated power. There is no place for evil in a Christian’s philosophy of life. We must never resort to evil. Matthew 5:39 “But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil...” Why? Do not recognize evil as a power—to resist it. Evil is not a power.

In the lives of Joseph and Daniel there is no negative thinking. Theirs are lives of great victory because they did not resist evil. Joseph never brooded over the evil done to him. Daniel did not brood over the evil done to him. He did not even care to defend himself but left it to God to prove him to be right. Blessed is the man who can forgive. Forgiving, one must go forward. A man who believes the Word of God must believe that God is always thinking of him.

Resist not evil. Do not recognize evil as a power. Love, faith, holiness and purity- these are powers and these last. Hatred, anger, and envy will perish. They destroy those that entertain them. They ruin your personality. You have to fight a big battle against negative thoughts. God Almighty has got great things for you. Do not think of lower things. When God has a palace for you, why are you angry with those that have denied you a room in a hut?

Forgive those who have acted negatively. Think of God who has wonderful blessings and a wonderful place for you. Matthew 5:39-48. These are statements of a God that won the

... “FORWARD” CON’T ON PAGE 4

the work" John 17:14.

Surely every one of us must have the joy of saying, "I have finished the work that God had given me". The Lord Jesus Christ also said "The works that God gave me to finish, they testify of me" John 5:36. You can always tell a man by the work he is doing. You would not find a ward-boy in the hospital with a scalpel at the operation table. That must be the surgeon! If you see a man bent over a designing board and designing a very intricate engine, you will say, he is a design engineer. So the Lord Jesus says, "From the work that God has given me to finish, you can say who I am". Even a child is known by his work, says the Bible. When someone looks at you, can he say you have been given a work from God?

"This man began to build". Some people leave a lot of confusion for their children to inherit. I am sure no father likes to do that. Which father wants to leave trouble for his children? But suddenly they are overtaken by death. It is not their design to leave confusion for their children. But the end of their days can suddenly come upon them and they have to finish their work. To be able to finish your work you must have started your work early. Our Lord was doing His Father's will. His brothers said, "Why don't you go to Jerusalem?" He said, "My time is not yet come". Even to go to Jerusalem He had to be in his Father's will.

How much wastage is eliminated, when you do God's will. When we look at such lives as William Carey's we can see that they accomplished so much as though they lived 20 or 30 lifetimes. God eliminates wastage.

One of the Prime ministers of England, Lord Baldwin said of John Wesley "I am supposed to be a busy man. But if you put me beside John Wesley, I rank among the unemployed". Another historian says, "You cannot account for 18th century history of England without John Wesley". He was a man who set his heart upon the will of God. Nobody can say of him "This man began to build, but could not finish. He finished the work, which God gave him to do. This is a very solemn thought for every one of us. When I leave the Headquarters, I like to finish my work and leave the table clean. But what about our eternal work?"

Are we going to finish the work God has given to us before we close our eyes on Earth? The Lord Jesus Christ gives us the recipe for success. "...Whoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple," (Luke 14:33) What does the Lord say? "Unless you put everything into My hands, you cannot build to finish". "Until you put everything into My hands!" In other words the Lord says, when a child cannot succeed in repairing a thing it just throws it into the lap of the father and says, "you can do it. I tried to do it; I could not". This is what the Lord says. "Put your whole life into My hands. Don't be afraid. I will do a perfect job with your life."

People spend a lot of time suspecting God. "What is the Lord going to do?". Yes, that is what they think and they find it very difficult to put everything in the hands of God, as if the Lord were a big thief.

Is God a pawnbroker? How many people go and give their thing to pawnbrokers! But when you come to God why are you so afraid? When revival began in Guntur

District, amazing things took place. A wonderful atmosphere prevailed there. One poor woman told my father she was selling some groundnuts. Someone came and said "Amma" and put out his hands as if for alms. The woman gave him some nuts. That person poured them back into her basket and her basket was full. When she looked up, that person was gone. It was the Lord. It is just like Him.

When you put anything in His hands your basket will be full. Do you think He is going to deprive you of anything? No. He wants you to be a person who finishes His work.

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24) Here St. Paul speaks of the danger that awaited him in every city. "Bonds and afflictions abide me" 23rd verse "But none of these things move. Neither count I my life dear unto myself." Why? "So that I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus." Physical discomfort, physical danger, all these are nothing. Why? I must finish my course. I do not want to be a man of whom it will be said, 'He began, he could not finish'. Whatever you are, a teacher, a nurse, a worker in a factory, an officer, a clerk or anybody, God has a perfect work for you and a complete work and He does not want you to leave it "unfinished". Therefore He says, "Son put your all into My hands. I am going to do a perfect work".

— Joshua Daniel

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This Fellowship is an inter-denominational missionary and prayer group working for revival in churches and amongst students in several countries. We invite every layperson to become God's ally in changing his or her corner of the world. We train people in evangelistic work and to be self-supporting missionaries.

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“The Artist and the Gypsy Girl”

Many years ago in the city of Dusseldorf, there lived an artist by the name of Stenburg.

He had been engaged to paint great pictures of crucifixion, and this he was doing, not from real love for Christ, or faith in Him, but for money and fame.

One beautiful morning Stenburg was seeking recreation in the forest where he came upon a gypsy girl plaiting straw baskets. She was gifted with more than usual beauty, and the artist determined to engage her as a model for a picture of Spanish dancing girl. So he bargained with Pepita to visit his studio three times a week to pose as a model.

At the appointed hour she arrived. Her eyes roved the studio and she was filled with wonder as she looked at the pictures. The large one (that of the crucifixion) caught her eyes. Gazing at it intently, she asked in an awed voice, as she pointed to the figure on the cross in the centre, “Who is that?”

“The Christ”, answered carelessly.

“What is being done to him?”

They are crucifying Him”

“Who are those about Him with the bad faces?”

“Now look here,” said the artist, “I cannot talk. You have nothing to do but stand as I tell you.” The girl dared not speak again, but she continued to gaze and wonder.

Each time she came to studio, she was more fascinated by the picture. Then again she ventured to ask a question; for she longed to learn more concerning the meaning of the picture.

“Why did they crucify Him? Was he bad—very bad?”

“No, very good.”

That was all she learned at one interview, but it added a little to her knowledge of that wonderful scene.

At last, seeing that she was eager to know the meaning of the picture, Stenburg one day said, “Listen I will tell you once for all, and then ask no more questions!” He told her the story of the cross—new to Pepita, though so old to the artist that it

had ceased to touch him. He could paint dying agony, and not of a nerve of his quivered, but the thought of his Saviour’s sacrifice wrung Pepita’s heart. Tears filled her eyes, and she could scarcely control her emotion. On her last visit to the studio she stood before the great picture, loath to leave it, ‘Come,’ said the artist, here is the money and a gold piece over.’

“Thanks, master,” then again turning to the picture, she said, “You must love Him very much when He has done all that for you; do you not?”

“Stenburg could not answer. Pepita, her heart sad, went back to her people, but her words had pierced Stenburg like an arrow. God’s Spirit sent the gypsy girl’s words home to his heart. He could not forget them. ‘All that for you,’ rang in his ears. He became restless and sad. He knew he did not love the Crucified One. He did not know the peace of God.

Some time after, Stenburg was led to follow a few poor people who gathered in a retired place to hear the Bible read and the Gospel preached. There, for the first time; he met those who had a living faith. He was made to realize why Christ hung upon the Cross for sinners; he realized that he was a sinner, and therefore Christ was there for him, bearing his sins. Thus God led the artist to the knowledge of salvation, and he began to know the love of Christ and could say, “He loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

Now he longed to make that wondrous love known to others but how could he do it? Suddenly an idea flashed upon him. He could paint! Praying for God’s help in the work, he painted as never before; and the picture was placed among other paintings in the famous gallery of Dusseldorf. Underneath he placed the words: “All this I did for thee: what hast thou done for me?”

One day Stenburg saw a poorly dressed girl weeping bitterly as she stood beside the picture. It was Pepita.

“O master, if He had but loved me so!” she cried.

Then the artist told her how He died

Retreat Announcement

**Our Spring Retreat will be held on
Palm Sunday weekend March 26 - 28**

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(See back page for list of contacts)

for her, poor little gypsy girl though she was, as well as for the rich and great. Stenburg did not weary now of answering all her questions: he was as eager to tell as she was to hear of the Love of Christ: and as it was presented to her, she received it, and went from that room a sinner saved, rejoicing, in that wonderful love. Thus the Lord used Pepita’s words to bring the artist to Himself and then used the artist’s words to reveal Himself to her.

Long after this, a wealthy young nobleman found his way into that picture gallery, and as he gazed upon that picture and the words underneath it, God spoke to his heart. He was Count Zinzendorf, who from that day became an earnest Christian and the father of the Moravian Missions, by means of which God led thousands of souls to Himself.

— *Selected*

Say What?

“AND THE
WORLD PASSETH
AWAY, AND THE
LUST THEREOF:
BUT HE THAT
DOETH THE WILL
OF GOD ABIDETH
FOR EVER.”

1 JOHN 2:17

“Answered Prayers”

When I was a boy of about fourteen, my father was seriously sick. We lived in Dundee, a little-cow-town in West Texas. Long strain had so seriously affected my father's health that a specialist in Fort Worth had told him he must be away from business and go to the mountains for months or he would die. When he went on with his work, the inevitable breakdown came, and he hung between life and death. The family physician called in the other local doctor; finally both said the case was without hope.

One night they announced to my stepmother that my father would not live till morning; that there was no hope. I knew little about the Bible, although I had been saved. But I knew that God answered prayer. I think I may never have read James 5:12-16.

Certainly I had never heard a sermon nor read an article about divine healing. Yet my father was a devout, believing Christian, and I knew that he had often told of remarkable answers to prayer. As instinctively as a child asks his father or mother for food, I felt I must pray.

I went out to the barn, and as I passed the buggy shed I heard a voice; I listened, and my sister, two years older than I, was weeping and begging God to spare our father. I went to the barn, knelt down in a horse stall and prayed. I came back into the house, and in the front room I heard someone praying; it was my stepmother. I went to bed and to sleep with a calm assurance that the doctors were mistaken, and that my father would live. The next morning my father opened his eyes and looked around him strangely. As I recall, he had for days been either half-conscious or delirious. Now he sat up in bed and said, “Where are my trousers?” My stepmother, half-laughing, half crying, said, “Why do you want your trousers? You are sick; you must stay in bed.”

“I am going to town,” he said. “I am alright.” And he would not be denied. He

got up dressed, and went to town while my stepmother frantically called the doctors. After he returned to the house, the doctors saw him and marveled and said it was simply unreasonable, and went away dumbfounded.

I do not remember that I told anybody about our prayers; I think God let me hear my sister and stepmother praying because He planned for me to tell it. How warm it makes my heart feel now to remember it! My father lived nearly twenty years longer to the glory of God.

— *Selected*

“Perseverance Pays”

An eighteen-year-old Canadian girl, Barbara Ann Scott, won the skating championship in the winter Olympics. Many an eighteen-year-old must have read the story of her triumph and envied the acclaim she would receive.

But I wonder how many skipped over one important line in the newspaper account. Barbara estimated that in preparation for this event, she had spent 20,000 hours in practice. She was already the greatest skater in Canada but she went on and spent 20,000 hours in preparation for this one event! Small wonder she won! She was talented, but she added to her talent the essential ingredient of hard work and continual practice.

Fritz Kreisler (a great violinist) said that even after he had reached world fame he still spent eight hours a day in practice. He said, “If I neglect my practice for a day I can tell the difference. If I neglect it for a week, my wife can notice the difference; but if I were to neglect it for a month, my audiences could tell the difference.”

Whether in the field of skating, playing a violin, or in prayer, one great truth stands out. Nothing great was ever achieved without effort and perseverance.

— *Selected*

... “FORWARD” FROM PAGE 1

battle. When we are trying to be perfect like our Father in Heaven, even nature will co-operate with us. Let us not make much of our enemies in our thoughts when a mighty God is prepared to give us all things. I have seen people going down, down, down in their spiritual life and becoming wicked by thinking of the evil done to them. Do not look back. Jesus, even at the point of death, forgave His enemies. Let us think well of our enemies. They know not what they do. Let us keep ourselves from evil.

What a privilege it is to be like Jesus! He has called us into His marvelous light that we may be like Him. Do not allow hatred, anger and vengeance in you. Do not brood over your failures. “I shall do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me.”

— *Late Mr. N. Daniel*

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Ann Arbor every Sunday Morning
at 10:00 am
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