

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

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THE CHRIST IDEAL

Sermon Preached at the Presbyterian Church, Central Point, Ore., by the Rev. Paul S. Bandy

TEXT: Philippians 3-14. "I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

It is interesting to study life: It is also interesting to study the different views of life. Many men of vast experience and keen observation have learned to take a comprehensive view of the world. Such men have been poets and philosophers. Others are warped by their environment. They live, but in the immediate present, and soon give up in the swift current and hopelessly drift through life. The great Shakespeare considered the world as a stage, and all the people as players, only a few actors who entered into the personality of their part in life, with its passions, sentiments and grandeur of existence. The rest, were mere players in the drama of life, and to all appearances, supernumeraries, never entering into the great passion of living; foolish theatricals. In pensive moments such people ponder upon the great question—is life worth living? They carry a bold front, trusting to their make-up for the stage of this existence; mere pretense of paint, dress and jewelry, dyed or bleached hair, penciled eyebrows—all outward, no heart work.

In ancient Greece and Rome there lived and flourished a school of philosophers, who held such a view of life; that people called them "The Persuaders to Die." They taught that to get pleasure was the chief aim in life, they said, "get pleasure," and they tried so hard to enjoy life, they pursued the phantom of worldly pleasure with so much vengeance, that they could not get the enjoyment they so much longed for. So they carried their system of philosophy a step further, and came to the conclusion that since experience demonstrated that life was subject to more pain than pleasure, therefore man is a fool "to suffer the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune." So they were called Cynics and taught the doctrine of the practicability of suicide; and practised it with great vigor. Such people scoff at everything; I have heard people who never doubted their own wisdom and who certain grades of people dubbed, "smart," say, "Life is only a big game of chance, that it is not to be played above the table, but it is he, who is able to slip the needed trump down his sleeve at the right moment, that wins out in the great game of life." Such people never get very near to nature's great throbbing heart, their idea is the survival of the fittest, the weak and the needy; they reply as did Cain, to the question, "Am I my brother's keeper," with an emphatic negative. All such natures are based on pure selfishness.

We all meet people who boast that they neither fear nor hope, they claim to be Fatalists. This is an extreme, to the previous idea. Human nature is as prone to hope and fear as an apple is to fall to the ground. For Fear is but wavering hope. The Mohammedan is the only example, and he is a fatalist only in the height of his own fanaticism.

Such and many more are the views that various people take of life. Now the world is indeed a stage and people too often are mere players, having no inner light or appreciation of the deep and real things of this world or the world to come. Life's legitimate aim is to find and give pleasure only, finds in the end, only ashes. Many people consider life's drama, only a game, they soon grow weary of playing, and throw down their hands in disgust and discouragement. Such is the end of the person, and this end may come years before they are ready to "shuffle off this mortal coil," leaving them to spend their weary days in regret and disappointment. Life's weight bears down heavy on such an one. Even yet there is hope if they will only trust in God and love all creation.

Fruitless, barren, and unsatisfactory, are these views of life. And those who hold to them do not have the calmness, poise, and contentment that should characterize earth's children. These views leave the passionate yearning heart of humanity, a hungering and thirsting for something tangible. A view of life that will give hope and happiness and life more abundant. Saint Paul was a scholar, a philosopher and a Christian: the composite of

Individual and Social Perseverance

Perseverance is the quality that gives the individual the ability to achieve his purpose; despite, not only the initial difficulties, but also the obstacles that continually insinuate themselves at every turn.

This form of energy that we are all pleased to call perseverance, feeds and strengthens the will, and the labor we put into any given purpose, as a result, does not weaken us, neither do we become debilitated by defeat and overwhelming odds. If I am a weak, narrow and small individual I do not appreciate this wonderful faculty of perseverance, and, as a result of this lack of appreciation, my will goes to pieces with the first adverse wind that blows. My ardor is cooled with the first gentle zephyr of adversity and I am quick to throw down my hand in disgust and say the deal is rotten. So, as an individual, I prove myself to be, not a good sport. I quit in the middle of the game and lie down at the most inopportune time. Being weak, narrow and small, I am under the dominancy of the street, and the street, I fear, makes cowards of us all. But the man of perseverance and purpose does not heed the street, but uses it when it pleases his fancy, and when it becomes garrulous and personal he becomes oblivious to it. Only when the street becomes of real social significance, which is rarely, does he become attentive and alert.

The persevering individual utilizes all that is about him, but is used, only when it is proven to him that it is to the advantage of all concerned.

So long as I write about the benefits of perseverance, to the individual, I am sure of having a sympathetic response from the reader, but when I tell you, my dear reader, there is a social perseverance to which the individual must relate himself some will think I am becoming vague.

A community must possess perseverance and thru mutual effort, directed by intelligent and conscientious leadership, it begins to develop a social consciousness and mutual helpfulness is started, that does not have some one, or only a few, individual's welfare at stake.

We often hear the words "get together" used. They are good words if only their true significance is grasped and the great task which lies before a "get together" movement is comprehended.

Many think that a social movement is launched by getting out the band, marching to a hall, listening to local and imported spellbinders, and then all partaking of coffee, ham-sandwiches and doughnuts. This would be simply a mob movement. A social movement has a different origin. In it, the emotions are not played upon, primarily, but judgement, poise and deliberate action are brought out and kept in the foreground. Mob-movements, based as they are, on the emotions, are necessarily short lived, and perseverance is impossible for the reason, that the mob never possesses reserve force. A mob-movement is always of a low order even when its object is worthy. It is of vast importance and necessary to understand, that a social movement cannot be launched and that it must be cultivated. An orchard cannot be launched, it must be planted, cultivated and carefully tended. So a social movement must be equally cared for. Every intelligent, persevering man or woman, fully understands that they must relate themselves to the social order in which they may find themselves. They must put forth honest, intelligent effort. Things then begin to be done that are beneficial and a community interest begins to formulate and soon there begins to appear what may be termed, a persevering social life, functioning in a healthful, progressive environment.

an ideal man. He looked upon life as a struggle, in a vast amphitheater, before a cloud of heavenly witnesses; with Jesus as the author and finisher, the ideal to strive for. "Wherefore let us lay aside every weight and sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience, the race which is set before us." This is a religion, our religion, and therefore let us pass to a consideration of what we have in our lives that is a hindrance in this race, that which is holding us back, keeping us from realizing the best that is in us, that which we do not need, those things that are not worth while in the struggle for "The Christ Ideal." And then let us strive for those things that are essential in realizing "The Christ Ideal."

Every life has its obstacles; and it is the overcoming of these that strengthens the character and bring the life into the proper equation. Now character building is a process of elimination and absorption, that which is bad should be eliminated. Today I wish to invite your attention to a few things that must be eliminated, or, as Paul says, "laid aside," by him who is to strive for the high calling of Christ Jesus.

In almost every walk of life we see pretense. People are pretending to be something they are not. They are dissatisfied, or possibly disgusted with themselves, as they are, so they try to fool the world into believing they are something else. Pretense is futile, it is so easily detected, it starves the soul and pinches out the least spark of individuality and kills all possibilities for a spiritual life. Do not be guilty of living more expensively than your income permits. Do not strive to put yourself on a par with a swell or higher cast of society.

Yet it is permissible and commendable, for a person to cultivate and develop himself for any position, which he might be asked to fill. This is being—only ones self—a higher and better self, no pretense about it. Aesop tells of an ass that put on a lion's skin, and went out into a field and frightened all the beasts away, so that he had the whole field, with its rich grass, all to himself; but the foolish ass was so exultant in the fact, that all the brutes in the field feared him, that he forgot to graze; but gave vent to his pride in his characteristic bray, then the beasts feared him no more. And thus we see the true character in people will out

exposing pretense. It is hard to live a lie.

We admire the dignity of a man whose bearing demonstrates, that he is just what he pretends to be. There is no sin that shrivels the soul as does pretense. It is a hindrance that the Christian must lay aside in his struggle for the Christ Ideal. The Christ who was the carpenter's son, a craftsman, a humble Nazarene, who associated with the fishermen on the shore of Galilee.

There are multitudes of discontented people in the world. We all think, when we hear any one complain, that their grievance is nothing as compared with our own. We complain of our environment, and say it is not good for us, we are good for our surroundings? Carlyle says, "The situation that has not it's duty, it's ideal, was never occupied by man." We all have a duty, non performance of duty is always productive of discontent, so it is not our environment that causes our discontent, but the lack of our relatedness to our surroundings and our lack of inclination to meet our duties face to face.

Our ideals should not be far distant, in time or space, but we should be working them out each day and hour, by doing what we can to bring about a better state of affairs, in our church, and in our community. Activity is an antidote for discontent. Cast aside discontent. Apply yourself to duty in society, in the church, in politics and in the home. Take an interest in everything, and with your heart unburden of discontent, you can then run with patience, the race that is set before you, with your eyes fixed upon Christ Jesus. The Saviour said that he did not come to condemn the world, but to save it, and to make it better. He went about doing good in every way, to every one, in every place.

Did you ever notice the host of pinched, troubled faces about you? People work like Trojans; then worry. They worry because they have formed the habit. It is a want of faith. When people look after trouble they are always sure to find it.

Ruskin gives us consolation by saying that, "God gives us always strength and sense enough for everything he wants us to do." God gives us strength, and puts us where he needs us, and we worry for a different or broader field of operation. This is radical inconsistency. So is worry

Lewis Auto Line.

Regular auto service between Central Point and Medford, effective January 26, 1917.

Daily Except Sunday.	
Leaves Central Point	Leaves Medford
8:00 A. M.	8:00 A. M.
8:30	8:30
9:00	9:00
9:30, Saturday only	9:30
10:00	10:00, Saturday only
10:30, Saturday only	10:30
11:00	11:00, Saturday only
12:00	11:30
12:30 P. M.	12:30 P. M.
1:00	1:00
1:30	1:30
2:00	2:00
2:30	2:30
3:00	3:00 Saturday only
3:30 Saturday only	3:30
4:00	4:00
4:30	4:30
5:00	5:00
5:30	5:30
6:00	6:30
7:00 Saturday only	7:30
8:00	8:00 Saturday only
9:30	9:00
10:50 Saturday only	10:30
Midnight 12:15 Saturday only	
SUNDAY SCHEDULE.	
Leaves Central Point	Leaves Medford
9:00 A. M.	9:30 A. M.
10:00	10:30
11:00	11:30
12:00	12:30 P. M.
1:00 P. M.	1:30
2:00	2:30
3:00	3:30
4:00	4:30
5:00	5:30
6:00	6:30
7:00	7:30
8:00	8:30
9:15	9:00
	11:00

W. L. LEWIS, Prop.

Wm. Lewis, of the Lewis Auto Line from Medford to Ashland, has purchased the Lovern and Chapman lines from Central Point to Medford and intends to improve the service. He has one Ford, lengthened for 3 seats, and one Ford with 8 individual seats which will run on this line. Mr. Lewis will run the two cars as per schedule above and will also run extra trips on request. In case of shows or other extras to Medford, a third car will be placed at the disposal of the patrons.

A Bamboo Forest.

There are few spots imaginable more beautiful than a Japanese bamboo forest. It is the most lovely in color, the most aristocratic and the best behaved forest in the world. It whispers pleasantly and gently, and the severest winds cannot make it angry. The long, slim bodies of its trees are useful long after death, for they are made into water pipes, canes, fences, picture frames, vases, fishing rods, roofings, dutes, fans, furniture and poles.

Following the Styles.

"The average woman spends most of her time thinking about what to wear."

"I fear you are mistaken."

"Why so?"

"She spends most of her time thinking about what to wear next."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

His Time to Talk

Judge—Have you anything to say before I pronounce sentence upon you? Prisoner—Yes, Judge, I certainly have. But it's dinner time. Let's wait until after we've had it. I have quite a reputation as an after dinner speaker.—Yonkers Statesman.

Eliminate worry from your life as you would cut a noxious weed from your garden. It poisons your life and leaves you unfit to look upon anything in its true light. Worry is reflected. It springs from the past. Paul says, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ."

Again; people have a universal sin—selfishness. Back to the time when the ambitious angel rebelled against the Sovereign will till now, selfishness has been the cardinal sin. Our social complications result from the greed of the acquiring classes. Political oppression, and the tyrant—greed. "It is man's inhumanity to man that makes countless thousands mourn."

So far, we have been considering the things that hinder the Christian in his race towards the Christ Ideal. In this sermon it has been my desire to help especially, those who have chosen the better part; and who are trying to get closer and more in touch with the blessed Saviour.

Let us now turn to a more pleasant side of our subject and determine what should be substituted in the Christian's race for the Christ Ideal. Let me say that all the good that comes to us, and that has ever come to the children of men, is through the person of Jesus Christ. "Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith;" let us study that character. Let us keep it constantly in the foreground of our consciousness. Let it's beauty and loveliness fill our whole horizon. Let it's purity possess our soul of souls, and let it's power dominate our wills. This is the Christ Ideal. There is victory and achievement for all who run in the Christian race, striving for the goal, of the Christ Ideal.

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W. C. LEEVER
The Hardware Man

Indoor Picnic An Enjoyable Event

Forty Sunday School children attended the indoor picnic at the Presbyterian church last Saturday afternoon. A number had roller skates and enjoyed the cement floor. New games were provided and many old ones were revived. Refreshments were served in cafeteria style. It was such a success that the board decided to hold one each quarter.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Margerete Gorden, an honored and beloved pioneer of Jackson county, Oregon, died January 22, 1917, at her home at 709 North Riverside avenue, Medford, Oregon, age 81 years, nine months, ten days. She was born in Alleghany City, Penn., April 12, 1836, where she resided until 1853, when with her parents she moved to Decatur City, Iowa, where the following year 1854, she was married to the late Uriah Gorden. In 1865 they crossed the plains settling in Polk county, Oregon where they remained until the spring of 1867, when they came to Jackson county, where she spent a number of years on the farm known as the Gorden ranch on upper Rogue river. Later they moved to Medford where she resided until her demise. She leaves to mourn her loss ten children, besides her immediate family, she leaves many grandchildren and great grandchildren and a large circle of friends.

Funeral service were held at the Christian church, in this city, Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 Rev. Tucker officiating. Interment in the Central Point cemetery.

Our Home Market.

Why not have a city market of our own? Why not have the farmers and gardeners back their wagons in on some of the vacant lots near the post office and give us a vegetable market say two days out of every week. We can do it. When they bring in their vegetables and produce let the townspeople buy from them and not go to nearby towns. We have the best stores in the valley and even then some people will go away from home to trade. Let us buy from our home merchants where we can get things cheaper and better and save money by doing so. There are no better blacksmiths anywhere than are to be found in Central Point, likewise garage and automobile repair men. Where can you beat our dentists and doctors, hospital, and nurses, bakery, implement men, poultry and egg dealers, and where can you find as accommodating people as are in Central Point? Why sir, we have the most accommodating people that are to be found anywhere. We are in a class with New Orleans when it comes to having accommodating people. Central Point is going to grow now you mark my word. What you say? Well with the best people on earth in and around Central Point and with all of the wealth back of the little city what is to prevent it from growing? A Business Man.

Don't Neglect Your Eyes

Hypermetropia Myopia and Astigmatism and other eye strains can be easily relieved and the vision saved, if attended to promptly. I have made arrangements to open

Optical Parlors

In the Cowley Emporium where I will be equipped to make personal examination of your eyes

Monday Wednesday and Friday.
Evenings, from 7:00 to 9:00 o'clock. I am a graduate of the Spencer Optical Institute of New York City. I have had over 10 years experience in fitting glasses, and especially solicit difficult cases, and guarantee a perfect fit.

J. H. Hamilton
Telephone 17 Central Point, Ore.
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A Good Daily Good Reading

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