

# MORE OLD-FASHIONED RELIGION AND LESS EMOTION, GREAT NEED OF CHURCH, DECLARES REV. F. R. LEACH

Rev. F. R. Leach spoke Sunday morning at the First Baptist church on the subject, "The Kind of Preaching Needed Today." The subject matter was commented upon most favorably by the congregation, showing what they think of the preacher and his work. The speaker exalted the work of the minister in his introduction, and then pointed out forcibly the kind of preaching needed in these days.

The "gospel" is heard in many pulpits these days. A person would not know from the message heard that he was in a church. Christianity is said to be good, but not a saving institution. Christ is kept in the background. This may be a progressive age, but some things remain unchanged. Human hearts and sin are the same and men are sinners as of old. Education has not eradicated evil out of the world and Christ is needed today as of old.

"The preaching today should also be more biblical. Everything but the bible is given people in some pulpits. 'The leading defect,' says a noted scholar, 'of the modern sermon is that it fails to unfold the scriptures and enforce its truths for the salvation and sanctification of souls.' Sin is slurred over; repentance is set aside, and hell is turned into a waiting room. A person is not biblical, however, when he merely cites verses of scripture and bases his acts or belief on a mere

verse of scripture. By this method people might affirm that it is wrong for women to speak in the churches, and make feet washing a part of the church's duty; also make Christ say that mere faith will accomplish anything asked for, which is doing violence to the real teaching of the Word. By the same method one can get Divine healing out of the New Testament, but a scholarly study of the bible says that Christ did some things while on earth that He does not do today, and does not intend His followers to do.

The preaching today needs to be more positive. The Apostles had a definite message. Many a preacher today does not know what he believes, and fails to convince his hearers. There are too many negatives and not enough affirmatives in the sermon.

As this is a sociological age the preacher must be not only bold and fearless, but practical in his message. The bootlegger, the crooked politician and the man living in sin objects to the preacher bringing his message down to earth. He wants him to preach what he calls the "gospel," which talks of heaven and not of earth where men live now.

The preaching needs also to be evangelistic and above all filled with the Holy Spirit; without this he fails entirely. The preacher should lastly be constructive and not destructive in his message. Churches are being divided, the work is being hindered, and

the great forward movement are blocked by men in the pulpit, who are preaching practices and doctrines which only serve to divide the churches. Evangelists of a certain type come to a community entirely united, and preach doctrines that are not held by the church at large, and when they leave they have caused the people of the community to separate in groups, some accepting and others opposing the new doctrines. This is no time for men who have new and doubtful messages to come to our churches, when the times are so critical and create unrest and cause church people to doubt and question one another. The entire world with the church is sick. The need today is for leaders who are sticking to the old message and who do constructive work. Many towns in California and now in Oregon are taking up with Divine healing and speaking in "tongues," and these churches who speak in tongues look with suspicion on those who do not. A prominent denominational leader in California has this to say of the real results of Mrs. McPherson and her work: "The effect of Mrs. McPherson's meetings have been anything but good in our churches. The churches accepting her teachings have become self righteous and are critical toward the rest of the churches not accepting them. They have in most cases given their money through other than denominational channels. We are having no end of

trouble with those who are Mrs. McPherson's most ardent supporters. She is a magnetic speaker and has some good messages, but the effect of her work is anything but wholesome. Her claim for healing has in most instances not borne rigid inspection; in fact, I have yet to find a bona fide case of healing which has been proven."

Conybeare and Howson in their "Life and Epistles of St. Paul," say that there is no authentic account of the existence of these supernatural gifts after the Apostolic age. Smith's Bible Dictionary takes the position that James in 5:14,15 is giving directions in the administering a gift with which the church was endowed only in the Apostolic age and that immediately following. This same passage is used by the Catholic church to make good their teaching of Extreme Unction. Foreign missionary societies which have made faith healing a part of their practices have in some cases returned to the use of medicine, and no longer permit their missionaries to practice the faith healing in foreign countries. Medical science is opposed to it. The church in general teaches that miracles were given for a distinct purpose, and that the preacher today is not given this power. The bible says false teachers will arise and will show "lying wonders" and will deceive the very elect. The church today needs as never before men of God, who can keep their church together in these days of trouble and turmoil.

## PERSONALS

Brennon Witcher, Mrs. Mollie Witcher and Mrs. Isabel Peart leave tomorrow for Portland and Seattle on a two weeks visit. Mr. Witcher will take a position as general manager of the Gates Garage on his return as the position is to be vacated by "Doc" Wright.

Harry Hagen who has been in Portland for the past two weeks on business and on a visit with friends is expected to return tomorrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, of Medford, were visiting Friday with Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Woods at their home on Gresham street—Ashland Tidings.

There were 5,495,454.2 gallons of gasoline sold in Oregon during October, according to reports filed with Sam Koser, secretary of state. The state tax totals \$112,254.60. While gasoline sales decreased 15 per cent as compared to the previous month, sales of distillate show a gain of more than 30 per cent.

Peter Strauff and Frank Kodat, sentenced to five years in state prison for an attempted robbery of the Gold Hill bank in 1922 have applied to the parole board for a parole.

Chester Randolph of Klamath Falls is spending the week in the city attending to business matters.

Word has been received in this city of the coming marriage at Portland next Friday of Miss Jean Thompson of Seattle, to Harold Cochran of this city. The groom is well known in this city and is the son of J. H. Cochran. The couple met when Mr. Cochran was employed in Missoula, Mont. They will make their home in Portland.

"Shorty" Cornish of Hill, Calif., is spending a few days in the city visiting friends and attending to business matters.

G. L. Karling of Yreka, Calif., has returned to his home after spending a week in the city on business.

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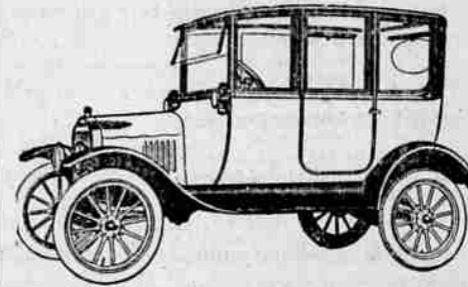
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