

WYATT PRAYS FOR RETURN OF OLD LANDMARKS IN RELIGION

Chapter XXV.

Through all the years of my religious life, I have had no inclination to change my views as to what I believe as what the Bible taught on the great fundamentals, nor since 1869 when I joined the Methodist Church have I had any disposition to change the rules and regulations of the church. I believe in the great fundamentals of the doctrine as taught and held by the church then, and believe in them now. The policy and rules of the church as held then, accepted and held them then and though the church has changed some of her rules and regulations and I have been loyal to them, yet I've preferred to remain as we were at the time as they were when I joined the church. I do not believe that we have gained anything by the changes we have made. There is not the tendency to which we used to hold to the great fundamentals as we used to hold to them from the baptism down to the smallest man in the church, that formerly obtained throughout the denomination. There are those among us who no longer hold as near and sacred to the heart as of any worth the Plenary Inspiration of the Scriptures and of lately teach that the Old Testament is not inspired at all but is a book that is not to be considered of any special value at all.

Many there are who do not accept at all the presiding elder is a necessity in our ministry and in many places have brought it in to disrepute until you find many laymen that really will argue with you before they will pay anything for his support. There are even those among us that will debate with you on the question as to whether the church should elect any longer bishops for a lifetime, or only for a four years term. These things are radical in our church and tend only to ruin as I see them. They are some of the things that lead to our great state of unrest and dissatisfaction. Such stuff that we so often hear talked and preached now we formerly did not hear talked and preached even when I was made a presiding elder, and for years afterwards. But some of us say as did the Jews of Jerusalem's time, "We will not walk therein." Then, as did the Jews, they will have to go to pieces. There is no other way for our great church, it is to hear God in His appeal to us to find the good old paths, or for the Methodist Church that has had such a glorious record for over a century, or more than God say to them as he said to the Jews about His kingdom: "What therefore shall the Lord of the vineyard do unto them? He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said God forbid." But they were mistaken, for God did just as He said he would, and finally gave His vineyard to the Gentiles. So God will give His part of our great church to another that will bring forth the fruit thereof.

One like the Jews has been a won-

derful manifestation of divine power and glory but like he did the Jews. He will take it from us notwithstanding we have done well through the years and give it to some one that will bring forth the fruits thereof to His glory and honor. Many of us will say as did the Jews "God forbid." But we must go back and call for the old paths or suffer the humiliation. It is that which makes many of us fear at this time. We do not like to be pessimistic for we love the church to which we have given our lives and our all as we love our own lives. We have laid all that we have on her altars and dislike for her to go from us now to others that will do what God wants them to do that He may be better honored and glorified through them. You say "Why don't you stop the places where the church is slipping?" Did you ever try to turn back a movie that was going in the wrong direction? I have raised my men and voice against every move that was tending in that way, but my words have been in vain. Some one would rise up and say: "He is a pessimist, he must have a bad case of indigestion. His eye sight is bad." I have always been optimistic. I have ever been free from anything like low strikes till the conditions have reached such a state that we have now, and a man would have to be blind to the situation that confronts him, or be untrue to his God or to himself.

It would be better for us to back up and take a new start along the lines that we used to travel and have peace and rest as we formerly had them. Don't you think that to be thrown out altogether of our place as we have helped it for the years in the past? As a result of this looseness in doctrine and regulations in church affairs we have a condition of worldliness in the church that is beyond compare. It is nearly equal to, if not completely as, it was when Mr. Wesley started on his great revival campaign. Some one describing that time said it was in a following by a darkness day. The darkness was so great that it could be felt. The backsliding was among all alike, the ministry and laymen. Worldliness of all kinds had stuck its deadly fangs into the spiritual life of all.

What is the difference of today? It is only now and then that you find a church where the attendance on the church services is anything like the number totaling the membership of the church. It is very rare that you find as many as 10 per cent of the members of the church at the prayer meeting. Sometime you will not find a male member of the church that will pray in public. A few of the sisters will call upon God and thus keep up the form of a prayer meeting. You have not heard of a class meeting being held in a church for years, and the younger members of the church would not know what you meant if you were to announce that you were going to hold a class meeting. We have gone far

afraid. In almost any of the churches you can count the number that hold family prayers on your ten fingers. I think it is time to call a return to the old land marks. What do you think? From this appalling state of worldliness what a darkness has befallen us in our young men coming into the ministry. How few young men that feel that they are called to the ministry through the prayers of the father during the season of family prayers at the hours of the evening devotion. It formerly was a frequent occurrence, but now you rarely ever hear of it. The children are so taken up with shows and parties that they do not have time to stay at home to hear the father pray, if he prays at all around the family altar.

In the great day of judgment, so many children will be forced to say: "I never heard my father pray." It will be better to go back to the old land marks which the father and mother and all of the children went to Church, to Sunday School and all stayed for the preaching of the Word, and morning and night the father, seated fourth in said in prayer for himself and family and all the people of the community. There cannot praying that commended the use and presence of God that would stay with you through the day and aided you to keeping right with your wife and all of the children so that you could come to the next feeling ready for the evening devotion thereof and welcome to thank God for His blessings of the day. Pray that this may be our lot once again. All be Methodist people.

W. W. WYATT

BOY WIRELESS OPERATORS AID POLICE RAIDS

HELP TO SPREAD NETS FOR APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, Nov. 5.—Another wireless operator is helping the police departments in the principal cities and towns of Texas to spread nets at approximately 200 points for the apprehension of criminals and recovery of stolen automobiles, according to Howard Parsley, Fort Worth detective secretary.

At a certain hour daily the detective headquarters in the cities having the amateur wireless stations telephone to the operator in charge descriptions of persons wanted and automobiles that have been stolen. The station also furnishes the police daily with descriptions of persons wanted in other cities and cars stolen there.

The wireless has enabled the police of Fort Worth and other cities of the state to apprehend a large number of criminals and locate many stolen automobiles, Mr. Parsley said. About 200 stations in so many places over the state in co-operation reports to the police departments.

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from the brain over the spinal cord and nerves to every part of the body, health maintains. When the supply to any part or parts is diminished due to pressure upon these nerves, disease results. This is a vital fact. It accounts for the actual primary cause of 90 per cent of all diseases.



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