

My text this evening is from the 9th Chapter of the Gospel according to John, the 4th verse, "I MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM THAT SENT ME, WHILE IT IS DAY: THE NIGHT COMETH WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK."

I am sure, as the Saviour gave utterance to this word to the christian people that thronged Him in His day and ministry, that He was not merely thinking of the night which follows our sun; He was thinking of a night that is going to come and is bound to come in the life and death of everyone of us. All through our Bible we find that God has brought both men and nations to points of decision. He has allowed them to come into and under such conditions from which they could see no way out, but God's purpose in all His dealings with His people and the people of the world is always kind. God labours continually to bring men and women to the knowledge of Himself and to adjust their lives according to the revelation of that knowledge and to get many to receive the privilege of a consecrated and holy life He begets in His people when they give themselves to Him. The Lord, in speaking to His congregation that day, was sounding a note of warning.

We live our lives and go about the various businesses of the day until sometimes we forget the greatest business is to love and serve God and surrender to Him and become useful members in the church of the living God. I marvel today as I see the indifferent attitude of people to the church of God, the ministry to which He has called everyone of us. We have not all obeyed that call, but it has gone into the world and He is calling everyone to work in His vineyard, and win souls for Him. He says, "THE TIME IS COMING WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK." There is coming an end to the opportunities of service to Jesus. I am persuaded that everyone who goes to the House of God in this congregation tonight, unless in some measure you were interested in God and an understanding of God and the things of God, if you did not expect to receive some divine touch or blessing from your visit to Bethel Temple, then you never would be found within these four walls.

In some way, sometime, we hope to be found useful in the service of God, but we know there is the spirit of procrastination, a spirit that puts off. Do you know, I am convinced there are many folk who actually want to give themselves to God and become active christians in the service of God, but they go to the church of God night after night, and year after year, but never come to that moment of real decision when they are ready to say "YES, I AM GOING TO STEP OUT AND TAKE MY PLACE AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE AND PUT MY SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL AND WIN EVERY SOUL I CAN WIN." I am afraid, as generation after generation of men pass into Eternity, there come moments of bitter disillusion and men realize, when they come to the end of life, they have missed the most wonderful opportunities of God and missed the pleasure of service for Jesus Christ. Remember the words of Jesus when He said, "THE NIGHT IS COMING WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK." I am sure, my Brethren, in the heart of everyone, there is the desire to be more active and a more earnest worker in the vineyard of the Lord, our God.

Did you ever see a time in the histories of the world, as you read them and note them, and especially of that history of your time, when there were a greater host of people hungry for God? I don't believe, in a thousand years, there has been a greater opportunity for service to God. You have been listening to the stirring messages of the Evangelist in these past three weeks and you have said, "I AM GOING TO BE A BETTER CHRISTIAN -- A MAN OR WOMAN FOR GOD. I AM GOING TO TAKE MY STAND AND GO THROUGH". But, my Brethren, you haven't reached that moment of positive "YES-NESS", that eternal decision that is going to carry you on the side of Almighty God. He has sent His Prophets from time memorial, urging His people without fail to pay their full allegiance to God. As Christ, in those days, called the fishermen from their work, God has called us to deliver His word to His people. Sometimes I think that the preacher stands in the place of the old Prophets who came and under divine inspiration tried to get people to walk with God. Jeremiah, after he had labored and worked and been rejected and refused, in the 8th chapter gave utterance to those words "THE HARVEST IS PAST, THE SUMMER IS ENDED, AND WE ARE NOT SAVED."

My Brethren, always God, in His love and mercy, is promising you that it is going to be too late to do the thing you want to do. Jeremiah said, "THE HARVEST IS PAST AND THE SUMMER IS ENDED." How many of us could look back upon the wasted opportunities of our lives! We have never lifted a hand to woo a soul from hell. That is not the life of the Gospel. God wants us to be men of valor who are not afraid to be seen with a bible. After 35 years of preaching the Gospel of God I testify to you this thing has hold of my flesh and bones like fire, and instead of wanting to quit and sit down in an easy chair, I want to spend my time for God and if ever I was useful for God in winning souls I want to put that usefulness into effect. I am a preacher and have been for many years, but I can see many places in my life where I wish I had been more on fire for God. I wish I had trusted the Word in season better and more diligently. I wish I had humbled myself more in prayer. My Brethren, the sun is going to set, not the sun shining today, but the sun of your life. Harvest time for you is going to pass from you and you will find yourself on the winter side of life with only a mass of disappointed memories because you have not walked holy with God.

You remember in the 24th chapter of Matt. that Christ Jesus, after declaring prophecies that pertained to end times (and He meant the people of these days) told His Disciples that things were not going to continue as they were at the present time. We have gone through marvelous changes as humankind could not conceive, but we are scheduled for still greater changes and the sun of this world is already beginning to decline and night is coming. It is going to be an awful thing for men or nations to find themselves outside of God. One of the Glories of the Gospel is that it makes no difference what the outside life may be in a physical sense, God's people do not depend upon sight. Of our physical sun God says, "MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE BUT BY EVERY WORD FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD." God, in Christ, says, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." God has come in our hearts and there is a light in us. The light of God's temple is shining so wonderfully in our hearts, and Christ said, after repeating prophecies pertaining to now, "NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION." JUST NOW, but every moment I say it, that moment passes and I have to say it again. Every moment of time is God's "NOW" for you and me in this wonderful proposition of our salvation and Christ has said this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all this world for a witness and then the end shall come. Oh, yes, then the end shall come. Do you realize, friends, we are headed towards an end.

The other day, as I was reading the paper and saw the awful fact recorded on its pages that 140 people had been dashed into eternity by automobile accidents in one county alone, I got to thinking of the experiences of some of those young men and women in the prime and strength of manhood and womanhood, that suddenly they were a battered corpse or bleeding body on the pavements of our city. Just the other day they took a young man to the hospital after being in an accident and the surgeon said he could not live an hour and the young man said, "IS IT A FACT THAT I, STRONG AND WELL AS I WAS A MOMENT AGO, MUST DIE AND LEAVE THIS WORLD?" And one Gospel worker, standing by, stepped up to his bed and said, "YES, BROTHER, WE ARE SORRY AND WE WEEP WITH YOU BUT THE SURGEON SAYS, IN AN HOUR YOU ARE GOING TO PASS INTO THE ETERNITIES BUT HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?" The young man waved him away and a hiss came from his lips and he said, "NOW I AM SHATTERED AND BROKEN BUT I WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR GOD." But the Gospel worker stood by and said, "THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND." As he went closer to the grave suddenly he said, "I SEE IT NOW, THE DEVIL HAS ROBBED ME OF A LIFE TIME OF JOY: SATAN HAS HARDENED MY HEART SO I COULD NOT SERVE GOD." And suddenly he started to weep and as he wept he passed out into eternity. He passed out as 3500 others passed out in this country of ours because of the automobile and accidents, as well as a million that were battered and shattered. My Brethren, may I say to you tonight, what a wonderful thing it is to be ready for God's sundown. Your life is going to go out. The end of the day is going to come. You know, when I see a congregation like this in a down town Mission church like ours, and I know what is going on because of the expressions on the face, it makes my heart ache because they refuse to say "YES" to God.

Jesus said, "THE NIGHT IS COMING WHEN NO MAN CAN WORK" and that night is coming for you. Last week I laid away five people. Everyone of them had been brought to God through the Radio. They never had seen Bethel Temple but they left a testimony to me that God had blessed the work. They said to their friends, "When I die, I can die in peace now and let that Pastor bury me." What difference would it make if it were 5000 if they all died in faith. HALLELUJAH! You remember old Agrippa, when Paul stood before him and was preaching to him, that old ruler gripped the throne and said, "ALMOST THOU PERSUADEST ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN" and Paul said, "I

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wish you were not only ALMOST but the same as I", and there he stood with clanking chains on him, but happy because he was serving the Christ. "ALMOST" is but to be ten million miles from God. ALMOST touching the Kingdom of God; ALMOST stepping from death into life but yet missing the Glory of God. Don't be foolish any longer. I was a boiler maker and studied after my own fashion, but always something in me loved God. I didn't serve Him so well. I loved Christ better than anything else in the world and I love that blessed Christ of Calvary more than anything tonight. Shake hands with the Messiah and say, "LORD, I WILL GO WITH YOU AND BE A CHILD OF YOURS". Agrippa shook and trembled on the brink of decision and you and I know from records of his death that he went into the darkness of Hades.

If God would only empower His ministers and workers and the church.

"WE PERSUADE THEM", Paul said, and that seems to be my attitude. Always I love to persuade men and women to be a real christian and live a life for Christ. This is such a decisive moment. I may never look in your face again. It happens almost every thirty days that folk attend these meetings and then pass into Eternity. Business is business. There is something in you that clamours after God but yet we harden ourselves. "LET GO AND LET GOD." Let Him have His way in your heart tonight. Think it over. Don't let an unsaved man or woman go out of here tonight. We are here to pray with you, to win souls to God.

Music and prayer.

WHO:mh
Stenographic notes of Marguerite Hood

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