

Ps. 34: 5

SUBJECT: Christians of The  
Shining Fair

[The Road to Radiance]

D 7/68

GP

## Christians of the Shining Face.

Ps. 34:5 "They looked unto him and were radiant." (RV)

(a) "Kind of gleam."  
The Road to Radiance  
 (b) Mr. Martin Luther, "God is above"

The thought in Scripture illustrated and mentioned.

Moses Ex. 34:29-35  
 Jesus Matt. 17:2 II Cor. 4:6  
 We all II Cor. 5:18.

There can be no doubt about it. Associating with the Lord does something to people.

- (a) The missing 2 attributes in Chicago. a song. The broken English. The muddy crew.
- (b) H. A. Brown's "Challenge to Abate"

The sainted face

- (a) Henry Clay Turnbull "What a boy saw in the face of God just now."
- (b) My own experience: first with Howard Taylor & his wife (1912) then... other sainted men & women.

(a) Methodism's Road to Radiance

D12/63

### Radiant Christians.

- I (1) Happiness dissociated with external circumstances.  
 Paul at Philippi with Silas  
 "is his happiness the least. Phil. 3:1; 4:4; 4:10, 11, 18."  
 "I thank you in every way."  
 (2) From the heart by trust  
 (a) Realism  
 (b) Johannine position  
 (3) Peace and rest, knowing we are in God's will.  
 Restless, miserable, unhappy. They are sick, they are in God's will, a peace of heart  
 and any to have, they have. But doing God's will.
- (3) Jesus is ours, and all heaven besides.

II An inner happiness found in Christ  
 (a) minister to light & truth in sign: shine!



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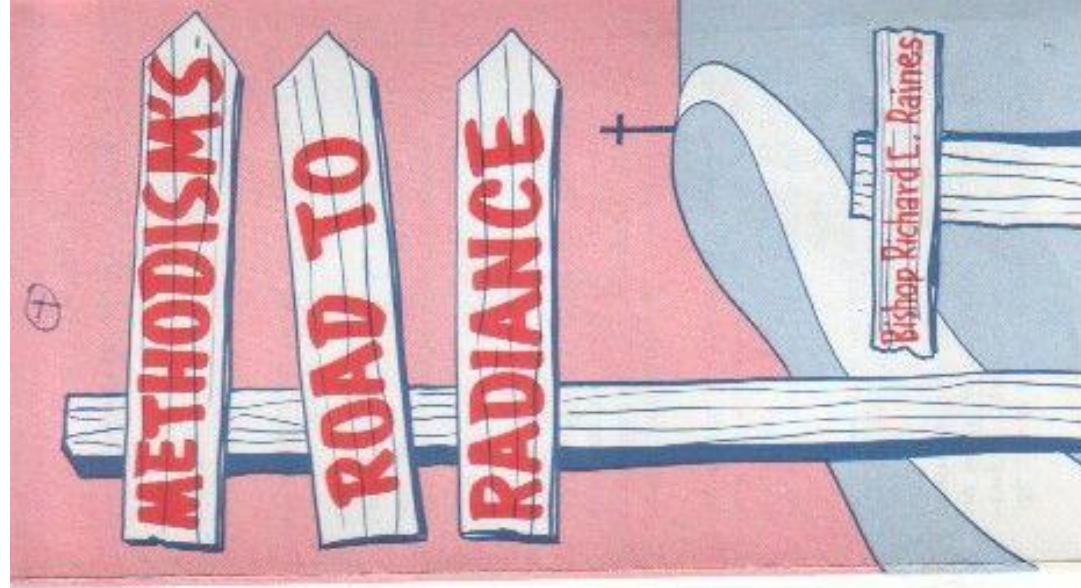
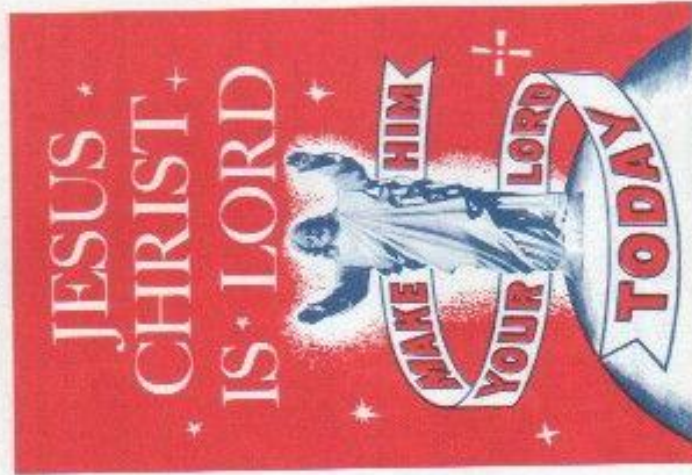
what we proclaim. We must take unpopular stands, participate in unpopular causes, challenge the materialism of our day by the quality of our life. We cannot say, "Father, save me from this hour; save us from nuclear war, but don't involve me in sacrifice and discipline. Father, bring brotherhood among the races, but don't ask me to send my child to a school where Negroes go. Father, provide enough ministers for thy church, but don't ask me to change my plans for my son." We must now say, "Father, glorify thy name, whatever it does to me."

The Committee of Nine Bishops, to whom immediate responsibility has been given by our Church for the quadrennial emphases, calls upon every Methodist to make every sector of his life more unashamedly and forthrightly Christ-centered, growing out of the faith and experience that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

METHODIST EVANGELISTIC MATERIALS  
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ML 20-100-481

*Romans 10:9 if you shall confess  
you that are Lord*





89. Why look at this and now instead?

## Methodism's Road to Radiance

If spiritual renewal is to take place, Methodists need to recover the radiant New Testament faith and experience that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

Illustrations of the loss of this radiance are found in the five M's of Methodism:

① **Music.** In most churches where I preach only about half of the people sing the hymns, and then with lackluster apathy. Often there is less animation in their faces as they sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," than there is on the same faces when they sing "R-O-T-A-R-Y, that spells Rotary."

② **Ministry.** For 50 years Methodism has not been replacing the ministerial members of past annual conferences who retire, die, etc., with theologically trained men. Yet, other professions are providing better trained men each generation.

③ **Membership.** Our growth in membership has so tapered off that we are now not even keeping up with the growth of population. We are losing ground as compared with the churches as a whole.

④ **Missionaries.** We have one third fewer missionaries (800 in number) today than we had 40 years ago.

⑤ **Money.** We are forty-first or forty-second in per capita giving among the 49 largest denominations. Reasons can be given, explanations can be made, excuses can be offered, fig-

ures can be quoted in an attempt to save our face. But the facts are, we have lost our drive and our sense of mission. Methodism, indeed Christianity, is sick. The first step toward recovery is to recognize that one is sick.

We need spiritual renewal. The Methodist Church's 1960-64 quadrennial emphases begin and end in the conviction that Methodism needs to recover the radiant New Testament faith and experience that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

## Road to Spiritual Renewal

What is the road we must travel to renewal, to recover the lost radiance?

① It requires a return to scripture, for earnest study, using all the available tools of Biblical criticism until we recover the *Kerygma*—the essence of the gospel—the experience of Jesus Christ as Lord.

The New Testament proclaims that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD. Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of the wind and waves, Lord of Christians and Communists, Lord of industry and research laboratory, Lord of depth psychology.

We do not make him Lord. We only recognize him as Lord. He is Lord whether we accept him as such or not. We fail to do so to our own destruction.

② Next, the road to recovery of radiance requires a recovery of a sense of mission. We must recover the urgent sense of mission to take the world for Christ—science, industry, education, the home as well as Africa and Asia.

③ The road to discovery of radiance requires that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. A majority of Christians would not even know what that phrase means. They have scarcely heard that there is a Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave us the New Testament through inspiring the minds, the memories of the disciples and leading them into an experience of the Risen Christ. The radiance came, and comes, with the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

The road to the recovery of radiance is to become a part of the new community, the colony of heaven, the *Koinonia* which the Holy Spirit creates among those who acknowledge and experience JESUS CHRIST AS LORD.

④ The road to recovery of radiance requires us to enter into the disciplines of holy habits. We administrators and pastors desperately need this. Our very manner of life, our uprootedness, our travel and irregular schedule tempt us to postpone, then neglect, and finally largely abandon regular Bible study, meditation and prayer. No one expects a football team to have power without training, practice, discipline. Nor will radiance be won cheaply.

⑤ The road to recovery of radiance requires witness. Stephen Neil startled the delegates at the World Council of Churches by a long pause in a speech and then asking, "How long has it been since you spoke to an individual about accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour?" If we do not share the experience, we lose it.

**END**  
The road to recovery of radiance requires moral and ethical integrity. We must do





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Ps. 34: 5

Christians & the Shining Face  
[The Road to Redemption]

1. They looked unto him and were radiant. (A&V)  
(a) Way - 'kind & pleasant'  
(b) Way? mention further, in road. 'but it died'

2. The Appearance in Scripture story  
(a) Moses. Ex. 34: 29-35  
(b) Jesus Matt. 17: 8  
    Lk. 9: 36  
(c) also Lk. 9: 18

3. There can be no doubt about it. { association with the fact  
    that something is going on.  
(a) What a long time in the face of Colossian passage. "Let Clay  
    Dumbrell  
(b) my looking at Howard Taylor and his wife C.M. Jones / Gordon Taylor  
(c) At least, Home Church. Dr. Truitt, looking at me. 3 lines.





**CHRISTIANS OF THE SHIN-  
ING FACE.**—And he was trans-  
figured before them. (v. 2).

More than 70 years ago, when the great missionary, Adoniram Judson, was home on furlough, he passed through Stonington, Conn. In those days the Stonington Line was the principal route between New England and New York, and the boys of the town often played about the wharves in the evening in the hope of catching a glimpse of some famous man. Two trains connected with the boat—an accommodation and an express.

One evening, when the accommodation came in, one of the boys noticed a man whose appearance excited his curiosity and wonder. Never before had he seen such a light on any human face. Presently it dawned on him that the man was the famous missionary whose picture he had once seen. He ran up the street to the minister's house, to ask if it could really be he. The minister hurried back with him. Yes, the boy was right. But the minister, absorbed in conversation with the missionary, forgot all about the boy who had brought him the news. The boy, silent, eager, unable to tear himself away, stood by and watched that wonderful face.

Many years afterward, that boy, Henry Clay Trumbull, became a famous minister himself and wrote a book of memories in which was a chapter entitled, "What a boy saw in the face of Adoniram Judson." Dr. Trumbull, too, had passed into the presence of the Master whom he served, but the light in the missionary's face still shines down the years. Friends to whom Dr. Trumbull told the story tell it to others, and the printed page—who can tell to how many lives they have carried their message?

Christians of the shining face—how men and women, in doubt, in temptation, in sorrow, search for them; and if they are fortunate enough to find one of them, how they are strengthened and helped!

The shining face is no mystery. Centuries ago the Psalmist knew the secret, and wrote, "They looked to him and were radiant." It comes to those whose faces are always turned toward him, as a flower turns toward the light. It was said at the time of the Boxer rebellion that Chinese Christians could not be disguised—the light in their faces betrayed them. The pity of it, that every Christian may not be known by the shining of his face!—"The Youth's Companion." Quoted in *Tarbell's Teachers' Guide to the International Sunday School*

**RADIUM-CHRISTIANS.** And entered into a house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid (Mark 7:24).

A microscopic speck of radium can, if placed behind a screen of fluorescent metal, be seen to be sending out a stream of sparks forever. These sparks give light and heat, yet (a marvel) it loses no whit of its energy.

Like the burning bush, it is a miracle. It emits light, and heat at no apparent loss to itself. It is unconsumed, though it is forever pouring out chemical and electrical energies.

When placed in the coldness of liquid air, nay, further, when placed in the intense frigidity of liquid hydrogen, still it does its pour out light and heat. Such ought to be the Christian life—living because Christ lives, a manifestation forever of the life and light of Christ.—*Sunday School Chronicle.*

#### God's Tower of Light

John 1:9. "That was the true light."

During the Empire Exhibition in Johannesburg, South Africa, large crowds gathered every evening to see a great beam of light

thrown into the sky. It was a 3,000-foot beam lit by a 14,000,000 candle-power beacon. But although the people went there to see it, no one saw it. For the engineers who had erected it had not calculated on one thing—the Johannesburg climate. They had erected a tower, 150 feet high, which they called the Tower of Light, from which they hoped to send out a beam which would be visible for 100 miles. But owing to the very purity of the Johannesburg air no one could see it. There was no humidity, no dust, no clouds for the light to be deflected against. And the light, as the scientists have explained, striking no object, is invisible. That is the significant fact to remember, that light, when it strikes no object, however powerful it may be, is invisible. So the most powerful light ever erected in South Africa was invisible.

God set up His Tower of Light in the world when he sent His Son to the world. And His is the most powerful light which has ever shone among men. His beams are capable of spreading to the ends of the Earth. Yet, the very light of God in Christ may be invisible to men. Unless it is caught and reflected by the lives of men, it will be invisible. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."—*From "Incidental Light" by the Rev. R. Oswald Davies, Manchester, England.*