

Lib. 114 "he being dead yet speaketh"

SUBJECT: THE INFLUENCE OF LIFE

"Lengthened Shadow"

sordid philosophies of Marx and Lenin and Howell are more feverishly active now to the undoing of Empire than Stalin or Zhdanov, satellites of the one, or Mussolini and Hitler, modern disciples of the other. Germany will never outdo, it seems, her godless teacher Nietzsche; nor Italy her unscrupulous teacher Machiavelli.

2. Evil When life is turned toward bitter and infidel ends it promotes an everlasting undoing. Influences are set in motion which can never be recalled, but gather momentum with each succeeding generation. One of the boys ^{at home} with whom I went to high school was also my companion in attending college. To our amazement and sorrow he began to boast of ~~his~~ ^{his} infidelity and infidelity. A group of us went to his room to grieve and to grieve. We found him reading a copy of Thomas Paine's Age of Reason. With pride he showed it to us, and spoke of its contents. I remember the end of that author before he died he cried plaintively, "Gather up every copy of my Age of Reason and burn it." He might as well have said, "Gather up the Atlantic ocean and bottle it." Here was an infidel who lived in the 1700's who was still and yet poisoning the life and mind of a young man two hundred years after. If there is a resurrection of the just, there is also a resurrection of the unjust. Someday a man will

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meets you to face the accumulated interest of thousands of years from the principle of a life he placed at evil disposal. The usury from such an investment, the reward of such a life, is terrible.

3. Good

^{with} With what joy, therefore, and with how great a divine and holy thankfulness we turn to the atoning feature of life, that good also can never die and that the power of the righteous life can never perish, but rather grows increasingly. Of Christ who died for us, Paul triumphantly writes, "If we have been reunited to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reunited, we shall be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:10). The incomparable life of Christ amazed and saved millions in the Roman Empire, and the power of that holy Salibution is more requisite today than it ever was. Who raises the question, "Is Christ dead?" Rather the most momentous issue facing our entire civilization is the positive demand, "What shall we do with Jesus?" The world is not, and can never be the same again after Jesus lived and walked among us. Here tonight is the power of his influence and the presence of his life. Be joined out into this world a something that can never die. Oh, the matchless, incomparable, heavenly life, and personality and influence of Jesus! Someday he shall fill earth and heaven with his glory.

12, ²¹ ²² Like their Master, the influence of the devoted among Christ's disciples shall never perish. Paul, John, Augustine, Savonarola, Huss, Huttmair, Wesley, Whitefield, Spurgeon, Moody - these mighty saints today are still burning and shining lights. On Moody's tomb are the words inscribed: "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever." The sainted John who wrote the words, the mighty Moody who believed them, shine more and more unto the perfect day.

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These are names we know. Their influence admitted and acknowledged. But no less certain, and no less sure, is the might and power of the personality and influence of those whom we do not know, those who have toiled and labored in oblivion, and yet who have honored God by their faith and devotion. In Arlington National Cemetery the tomb of the Unknown Soldier made a great impression upon me: the beautiful marble sarcophagus, the silent sentinel in kakai marching untroubledly up and down before it, and the inscription on the marble panel: "Here in honored glory rests an American soldier, known but to God." Over how many thousands, and over how many millions could a like inscription be written: "Here in honored glory rests a Christian mother, known but to God." "Here in honored glory rests a faithful father, known but to God." They are

consecrated men and women of beautiful life and eternal influence
without whom the world would be barren and lost and
wonder. Who was the Pacific Sandal Mission worker who was
Billy Sunday to Christ (on a street in Chicago)? Who was the
humble Sunday School Teacher who brought Moody to the Lord? Who
was the Missouri preacher ^{there} whom the Lord converted Moody and
Whitefield? They share in the glory of the work no less than the
mighty themselves. One of the most beautiful tributes I ever
heard in my life was made by Dr. John L. Hill to a little
Sunday School who won him to the Lord Jesus; a humble little
woman who taught a boy's class over behind the organ. She
do not know his name, but in the eternity she will share
in all the victories he has won. Oh, to make our lives count
for God, known & unknown, to have a part in the building of
this Kingdom!

Two qualities of soul, as I look at it, make life beautiful and influence blessed. One is consecration, the other is faith. They are two sides of the same ^{coin}, pattern of ~~the~~: one is manward, the other Godward.

1. Christ/faithness
Those are sweetest in character and favored in influence who live their lives unselfishly. They bring atonement into the world, covering much that is hateful and unsightly, winning back to heaven and to God what had been lost without them. It is they who have given of themselves without reserve to holy tasks, who have consecrated their efforts in service for other people and noble causes, whom the world delights to remember and rise up to call blessed. These unselfish ones have made the earth sweet with the fragrance of their beautiful lives; they have made our world resplendent with the worth of their souls; they have made our race heroic with their self-denial. The difference between a small, mean, measly, shriveled soul with a puny and influence like it, and a great, noble, magnanimous soul is the difference between selfishness and unselfishness, the difference between hate and love; the difference between worldliness and consecration. The influence of the one is pernicious and baneful; the influence of the other is ^{precious} hallowed and blessed.

Selfishness, ^{greed} littleness, said to Cain, "Bring a vegetable offering; one has to fear and be respectful to God."

Conscientiousness, devotion, said to Abel, "Bring an offering of love; a lamb for the atonement of the soul."

Selfishness, covetousness, said to Seth, "Choose the Jordan valley, the well-natural plain, the cities of Boshom and Amorsrah."

Love and unselfishness said to Abraham, "Take what is left, the hills from whose cometh strength of God."

Selfishness, littleness, said to Aaron, "Lie about that golden calf; save your life."

Love, intercession, pled through Moses, "O God, the people have sinned a grievous sin, we confess our fault. Yet now if thou wilt forgive their sin — if not, I pray thee blot me out of the book which thou hast written."

Selfishness said to Orpah, "Kiss Naomi and leave her alone. Go back to Moab to kindred and friends."

Love, devotion, said to Ruth: "Entreat me not to leave thee, nor to return from following after thee; for whithersoever thou goest I will go; where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

2. Faith

The other quality that makes a life great, beautiful and influential is faith - a deep, abiding, unshakable conviction of the goodness and leadership of God. The Roll-call of faith would be the roll-call of God's chosen who from the beginning of time have planted the seeds of heaven to blossom and fruit in the earth. "By faith Abel..., by faith Enock..., by faith Noah..., by faith Abraham..., by faith Joseph..., by faith Moses." From the days of Able down to the present hour it has been men of faith who have ^{redeemed} brought the world from despair, and who have inspired in the hearts of others the determination to attempt great things for God, to expect great things from God. In the dark, in the light, through discouragement, through disappointment, they believed triumphantly to the end.

One of the men who most profoundly influenced my life was Dr. Samuel Palmer Brooks, President of Baylor University. During the most impressionable and formative years of my life - 17 thru 21 - I sat daily for 4 years in a chapel group over which he presided and to which he spoke. He was always a man of faith, of trust in God, and man of courage and conviction. For the four years of our student generation he preached to us of these things, as he had to the students of generations before.

As my senior year was drawing to a close, and commencement time approached, we were brought down in sorrow with the news that Dr. Brooks, great in soul as he was in stature, could not live; that his life was ebbing away. Immediately thereafter from the senior class a unanimous appeal that Brooks sign our diplomas before he died. Out of love for the class, and for the school, with the last ounce of strength he had, he put his signature to the last diploma.

But that was not the thing that interested some of us. We wanted him to sign our diplomas, yes; but most of all and above all we wanted a message from him. What of that faith, now, he had preached to us. What of God, death, eternity, the grand, now that he faced them. Was the faith he preached in life good to die by? We wanted a message, a word. And to ^{our} deep disappointment

of some of us, no message came. No word was spoken. Just before graduation, he died. He had forgotten his students, and the faith he taught us.

About 350 of us assembled in line with our caps and gowns in order, and slowly marched to chapel. The service to me was a sorrow. We went through the routine, the degrees were conferred, we changed our tassels from right to left, the diplomas one by one were given out, and we were seated for the President's message. As usual, it was printed in the program. But Drury had died, and he hadn't said any word to us. What of the faith he had preached, and the God he loved, in whom he trusted?

The Dean arose, carefully drew from his pocket a precious manuscript, and announced: "I have here the President's last message to the Senior Class of 1831, spoken just before he died." The Dean then began to read. Our hearts seemed to close their beating. I was transfixed. The Dean began to read.

"This, my message to the Senior Class of 1931, I address also to the Seniors of all years.

"I stand on the border of mortal life but I face eternal life. . . . ^{Looking back now} as I do, I see things with a better perspective than ever before. More clearly do I recognize that God is love. More clearly do I understand the universal fatherhood of God. . . ."

"My own faith as I approach eternity grows stronger day by day. The faith I have had in life is projected into this vast future toward which I travel now. I know that I go to an all-powerful God. . . . I know that He is a personality who created man in His image. Beyond that I have no knowledge - no fear - only faith." . . .

"My love be unto you and my blessing be upon you."

S. P. Brocka.

I shall never be able to erase the impress of
the influence of that man upon my heart and
life. Ten thousand of his old students arise today
and call him blessed and thank God for him.
His influence upon us is measured by the faith and
the convictions he had in God, and it can never
die. He, with others, has taught me to say:

So I go on not knowing
["I do not know where He leadeth:"]

I would not know if I might.
I would rather walk with Christ by faith
than to walk by myself with sight.
I would rather walk with Him in the dark,
than to walk alone in the light."

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