

EXCERPTS FROM

THE LINK

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A man once writing said "that wastage was a law of the universe". How many a flower wastes its fragrance and beauty in uninhabited areas. How much sunshine is wasted on the desert sand, etc, etc. There may well be a measure of truth in this, but to wholesome-living, careful people wastage is deplorable. How often do we all have our little grouse at the way in which money is spent on an international, national, or perhaps local level? "It is a waste of money" we say; this may or may not be true. How prudent is the man in business to see that there be no excessive leakage or unnecessary expenditure, which would waste his financial resources. The housewife is watchful over her purse, she saves the odds and ends of food and transforms them into an attractive, appetising "made-up" dish, that they be not wasted. We endeavour to train our children not to waste. "Waste not, want not" has often been said.

All this is excellent and should characterise us all, but the same principles should be operative in spiritual and church life, but sad to say so often they are not. No doubt we can all turn our eyes to some who once ran well, but are now backsliding, such have not only ceased to help in

the Lord's work but are actively engaged in hindering it - what lamentable wastage. Some Christians become worldly. Worldliness is disloyalty to the Lord, it drains away a great amount of time, money, strength, talent that should be pressed into the service of Christ. The world is very sinister, and many have been ensnared. A writer in the Christian press recently said that the church contained many successful failures - Christians who succeed in secular matters at the expense of spiritual prosperity and usefulness. This for a Christian is wasteful living. Unused talent is another great source of wastage. When talent is shut up in the pew it is hindering the Holy Spirit from doing His work through the gifts which He Himself has bestowed. This is literally to throw away, to squander that which God has placed within us. Serious wastage indeed.

In church life today, there is much that Spurgeon called spiritual tom-foolery - elaborate side-shows which have very little bearing on either making, or helping a Christian. Then there are meetings which have become an end in themselves. If when we come together, there has not been a seed-thought of Divine Truth implanted in our minds, or we have not been

helped to believe or to obey better,
or the Lord has not been made more
precious to us, or we have not
resolved to put something right in our
lives, then we are meeting, for
meeting's sake - this too is waste,
superfluous, unproductive.

Bible study - are we storing?
What are our resources? Are we
charged with the Truth of the Word of
God?

Praying - Definite business with
God. Here, His sway over our hearts
and lives is extended. Here, the
forces of evil are hindered, here we
are spiritually energized.

Lack of concentration on these
things spells wastage. To every
believer God has entrusted His Truth
and the ministry of intercession.
Through these two things flow the
energy and power of the Spirit. May we
as a company of believers meeting
together at North Road be very deeply
concerned that we do not live our
lives, or come together, to no real
purpose.

Swiftly and surely comes the day
When I shall keep a tryst,
The focal point of all my life,
The judgement seat of Christ.

Shall I approach that throne with
dread,
With fear and stark dismay?
What will confront me, what be read,
About me on that day?

I shall not stand, a prisoner
Who waits with baited breath;
To hear the sentence of the Judge,
If it be life or death;

All this was settled long ago,
But rather shall I stand
A servant, waiting judgement
On the works of heart and hand.

Those works in which my soul took
pride
May there be judged as hay
And burned as chaff and stubble on
That all-revealing day.

O may there be some little deed,
Some word for Him I said;
Some work the Spirit energized,
Some earnest prayer I prayed;

Something entirely free from self,
Or hope of gain, or pride.
Works done for love of Him alone -
These only shall abide.

How would I feel if I should have
No crown of gold to give,
To lay before the feet of Him
Who died that I might live?

May I live my remaining days
Remembering that tryst
Which I must keep with Him, before
The judgment seat of Christ!

To our beloved members who are
unwell, and those who cannot now come
to the services, we again send you our
love, and the assurance of our
continued prayers.

May you know His presence with
you, His peace within you, and His
arms beneath you.

W.H.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

The Annual Bible Convention was
certainly an occasion when the Lord
spoke to all very definitely, as in
the afternoon His servant established
the fact of Stewardship, and the
evening brought out so forcibly, that
which God has entrusted to us, to
administer for Him and His Glory.

1. Things, 2. Time, 3. Talent,
4. Treasure, 5. Truth

The numbers attending the meetings in connection with the Trinitarian Bible Society were disappointing. The Thursday evening not being up to our normal number for the regular Thursday night meeting. Friday was more encouraging with folk from Exeter, Tavistock, Umberleigh, Puddington and Allerbridge, as well as a good representation from our own assembly. Saturday fell again to a very low level. It was obvious as contacts were made over a large area of the county that there was a great ignorance in the matter, but the sad part is that ignorance is coupled with apathy. Mr Dix spoke with authority, and with the manifest power of the Holy Spirit. The position in this field is deeply disturbing, and calls for action - remember the Convention message - we are stewards of THE TRUTH. Many however were very greatly helped and strengthened in faith and conviction, and already mention has been made of a local auxiliary of the T.B.S.