

Poor Business

How illogical and unbusinesslike are some of the most logically-minded and most businesslike of men when it comes to matters relating to their spiritual state.

Many are so thorough and keen in the conduct of their business, social and family matters, that they leave nothing to chance. Rather do they pride themselves in their system in business, their social standing, foresight in matters of education, insurance, and such like. Clever, keen and alert, farseeing in all these things which is quite all right, for the Bible says, "Seest thou a man diligent in business he shall stand before kings."

If you ask them if they belong to a church, society, club or lodge, they will tell you unhesitatingly and proudly of their affiliations. Ask them if they are married, you will receive a spontaneous reply; they are definite and sure about all these matters. But ask them if they are Christians, and it is sadly amusing the replies you will receive, how indefinite, confused, vague and uncertain they become. Some will say: "I am trying to be a Christian."

Think of anyone trying to live a Christian life, without having received eternal life. Others will say, "I try to cultivate a Christian spirit." Is it possible to cultivate that which has not been planted, or feed that which has not been born? There are those who are substituting the laws of conversion for the experience of conversion. Christ says, "Except ye be converted...ye cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven."

Some are trusting in their social activities and good works. But again the Scriptures tells us that Salvation is "not of works lest any man should boast." Still others are depending on reformation instead of regeneration—an external operation instead of an internal one. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Then there are those who are following a principle instead of receiving a Person. "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

You will find people who tell you they are sincere in what they believe. So was a man I heard of who had a wrong prescription made up for his wife, believing it was all right. He lost his wife in spite of his sincerity. Like a man I heard of who was seated in a train headed opposite the way he wanted to go. Both were sincere, but alas, they were sincerely wrong. Men are patching, renovating, decorating, an old condemned building ("He that believeth not is condemned already") instead of calling upon the Great Master Builder who makes all things new, to reconstruct and make it anew. He who has made us, can, and will re-make us, if only His grace we'll seek.O

Why is it that some of the finest of businessmen, who are so thorough and systematic in their business, are so undecided, uncertain and unsettled in eternal matters, when it is their privilege to be sure and certain, and established in Christ? There are those who believe that by imitating Christ they can become like Him, become Christians. Can one become a member of the Royal Family by imitating the Queen? The suggestion is foolish; nor can one become a member of the family

of Heaven by imitating Christ. This can only come by being born into it. We are "made His child by adoption and grace." Christ says, "Ye must be born again." "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

How careless men are and what terrible chances they will take in regard to the first and most important business of their lives, yet so often left till the last, then more often than not it is too late, the mind and body having become weak, the faculties cease to function, too late to think, too late to pray, too late to turn to God.

Will you not do definite business with the Lord right now while you have your senses. Repent and believe the Gospel! Find yourself clothed in the merits and shed blood of The Righteous Redeemer. No amount of church activity, social service, kind deeds, square dealing, straight living, can produce eternal life. "For neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

*Cast thy deadly doing down,
Down at Jesus feet;*

*Stand in Him, in Him alone,
Gloriously complete.*