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The Habit of Worldliness.

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What is worldliness? Worldliness is a hard and polished materialism. Worldliness is the hardening of the spiritual arteries. Worldliness is the encasement of the soul in fleeting ambitions and delights. Worldliness is a solid prison of material interests with no windows or skylights looking out upon God and the eternal world. Worldliness is something very hard and very thick, and very tenacious; it is like the shell of the limpet in its fierce hold upon the hard rock. What can you do with worldliness? What can you do with the solid imprisoning walls? We accomplish nothing by pouring upon them the soft waters of merely ethical teaching. We have done nothing when we have decorated the walls of the prison with works of art. We get no further when we just stroke the rock with smooth and gentle plausibilities. We may hang a bit of ritual on the heavy walls, but the imprisonment remains. All these will leave it unmoved, and worldliness will rear and spread itself as strong and defiant as ever. What do we need for its destruction? We need dynamite, the dynamite of the resurrection. And when this mighty force which dwelt in Jesus, and which broke both sin and death, is received into the innermost soul, the hard imprisoning walls of worldliness are blown into nothing, and the soul looks out upon a new heaven and a new earth. Yes, when the walls of worldliness go down we have the entrancing prospects of the Kingdom of heaven. Worldliness cannot stand against the dynamite of the resurrection. And so it is with every other established habit. Every one of them can be blown up by the power of the risen Christ. Nothing can stand against it. "For this was the Son of Man manifested that He might destroy the works of the Devil."---Baltimore Southern Methodist.