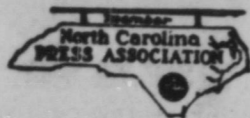


THE ZEBULON RECORD



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SINGLENES OF PURPOSE

"This one thing I do." — Phil. 3:13

Paul was a man of varied gifts. He was highly educated and was fitted by inheritance and training to fill the position of highest responsibility. It seems that early in his young manhood his ambition was to become the successor of Gamaliel. He would excel.

But a change came into his life because he was sincere and honest in his desire and ambition. Ignorant of much that the Christian faith taught he set himself faithfully to master its principles as he had the rabbinical traditions. He formed and fixed his purpose. It was a long road, a hard one he was to travel. He learned early in his Christian experience something that many never learn. By eliminating every other thought, desire, and purpose, he set himself to do just one thing — and that was the secret of his success as a man and a minister. It made him great among men and with God.

Doing one thing regularly, no matter how small it may be — doing it when you don't feel like it, when you are half sick or think you are tired, but doing it just the same — is known to be a wonderful character tonic. There is a virtue in the regular doing that often far exceeds the virtue of the thing done.

But in addition to the benefit that comes from the stimulating self-discipline of the regular doing, why not have also the greatest possible benefit from the thing done. Suppose that the rule you never broke, the thing you elected to do unfailingly, rain or shine, convenient or inconvenient, were to be at church at least every Sunday morning, on time, happy and smiling. Such a resolve would like a magnet draw into your life and character all those virtues and graces found dominating the life of Paul as he rounded out his earthly life, circled with a crown of un fading glory.

Have a definite purpose for life, then do it!

THE DEVIL'S DIRTY WORK

Down in Union county there was, till a few days ago, a big Baptist church, the largest in the county. Some time ago more than a hundred members decided they wanted a different pastor. The majority said they were satisfied with one they had. Exclusions, injunctions and various other legal actions followed. That good pastor who had the majority with him just held on. We hardly see how any man could keep his job in any organization when he was splitting it to pieces, much less a church which should have first consideration in his life. But he was not the first to do thus and probably will not be the last one.

No doubt the devil was in that church, in both sides and the middle. We suppose it would be called by theologians one of God's permissive degrees. Any way, the devil made things so hot in that church (the members) that he set it on fire (the house). And now neither side has a church nor does the preacher have a pastorate. This reminds us of the remark of old Bro. Coppedge years ago when there was a split in the Rosinburg church: He said the church was not able to build a house, but that the devil got into it, split it, and built two. Only in the Union county matter he broke up the organization and destroyed the house. They may now like the Frenchman's stubborn mule, have their "most completest satisfy," but we doubt it.

We wonder just how much that preacher was to blame for what happened in that church. Suppose

he had resigned when he saw there was an influential group asking for his resignation. Perhaps today the house would be standing, the congregation meeting together and the pastor would be established in another pastorate.

Some of us are like God, only different, our ways are past finding out.

JUST OUR OPINION

This year the citizens of Zebulon will elect a new Mayor and Commissioners, or perhaps the same ones who now hold office. Not being a citizen of the town yet, we can only express our opinion of "cabbage and kings", candidates and such things, yet being a tax payer in this bailiwick, we may be excused for expressing our opinion about the sort of men we believe ought to head our local government. So we speak.

Just anybody is qualified to hold office who is 21 years old and has paid his poll tax. But discharging intelligently and efficiently the duties of that office may be another matter. We believe the best business and moral men of this community ought to be nominated. And it would not be a bad thing if we had one or two women on our town board. While not necessary, yet we believe these men should be men who own property in the town; not just a renter, but one who is a real property owner. Naturally he will be more interested in the town's affairs than he would be if he had less at stake. One of the best men, in our opinion, of the present board is not a property owner. He seems to be an exception.

And the last qualification of a good board member we believe is that he will handle the town's money as carefully as he would his own, if not more carefully. If he gets so enthusiastic over ball grounds, fairs and ball leagues that he feels he must make an investment in some of them, we hope he will use his own money in such investment and not the people's. We are saying these things about men before they are elected, or even before they offer themselves as candidates. There is nothing personal in what we say. It just happens to be our opinion.

IS IT EVER RIGHT TO FIGHT?

In the early history of the race killing was justified by the highest authority men knew under certain circumstances. Centuries later the law was restated and many today believe that a man is never justified in killing another. Both experience and observation teach us that there are worse things than even death.

When a man stands up for his rights he may have to fight for them and even die for them. This has happened with individuals and also with nations. It was true with poor Ethiopia. It would have been so with Albania if she had not yielded. If England and France had remained half indifferent to what Hitler and Mussolini started out to do to all the lesser nations of Europe, something would doubtless have befallen them worse even than death. Had England and France taken the stand at Munich that they are now taking, Hitler's domain would probably stand today as it did a few months ago. There might have been war, but it was no less probable than it is today.

If it is right for one man to interfere in the beating and robbing of another, then it must be right for one nation to interfere with the same procedure of another. We learned when a boy that fighting is hard work not to mention how it makes a fellow feel to get licked. But when a man is crazy with power and greed and starts out to surfeit his desire on another, somebody ought to do something about it, or rather with him. We wish some one would tell us why, if it is England's duty to go to the defense of the smaller nations of Europe, is it not equally America's duty to help protect or rescue them? It seems to us that only selfish reason could excuse any democracy on the face of the earth from defending and protecting the helpless if their lives were in danger. The question is to find out just what sort of a plight they would be in. We believe one has a right to defend his own life and the lives of those dependent on him against an attacker. If it is timber, oil, coal and property, then we doubt the wisdom or duty of an individual's or nation's interfering in such a way as may likely lead to bloodshed. And our opinion is that much of the trouble in Europe today is largely one of wealth. They may need our charity a little later, but we do not believe they need our war munitions.

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