

METHODIST DOINGS

On October second at 11 A. M. Rev. A. S. Raper held a special service at the Methodist Church, for the old people. A very large number of people attended. The church auditorium was much more than full. Special music was furnished, Miss Vera Melton sang sweetly in the opening of the service.

Mr. M. J. Orr, the oldest person in the congregation, led two old time songs, assisted by a number of elderly ladies and gentlemen.

Then Rev. A. S. Raper preached a sermon to the old especially which follows:

HONORING OLD AGE

Text: "Thou Shalt Rise Up Before The Hoary Head And Honor The Face Of The Old Man." Lev. 19:32.

God has been very tender and mindful of the age in His holy word. The scriptures reverently speak of the aged from Abraham who "died in the good old age, an old man, and full of years," to the aged Apostle John, who was so old that when he wrote his epistles that he looked upon all other Christians of his time as children and tenderly addressed them as "my little children."

Not only has God set us an example of being reverent before the hoary head, but He has positively commanded us to honor the face of the old man. God means for us to obey this command as strictly as the command, Thou Shalt Not Steal." There are many reasons why we should be courteous and kind to the aged.

First, because of their experience and wisdom. Book learning is not enough. Our greatest education comes from the school of experience. The aged have passed through this school. It is well to listen to their words of wisdom. We are all apt to be visionary in our youth, but with the coming of old age there is normally a ripening of the mental and spiritual faculties.

Judgement becomes established on the sound basis of long experience. Wide observation of life and its temptations brings knowledge which can be obtained in no other way. Right estimates of relation values correct the arbitrary standards of youth, diminishing the consideration paid to shallow brilliancy and honoring chiefly the steady, implorable plodders who stand faithful through the years to their humble task.

The aged man is beyond the reach of such moral infirmities as depend

upon the inexperience of youth. He is part the more strenuous struggles of competitive business, and the consciousness of the approaching end of his life tends to promote serious attention to the life of the spirit.

Age is the most favorable period of life for the rounding out of character into gracious symmetry. All around us are beautiful lives that have grown sweeter and more mellow as the step grew slower and the sight and hearing began to weaken.

The young are apt to think that they can reach the heights of wisdom without laboriously climbing the steps of experience. They find that they are wrong. Time proves to each generation of men that wisdom, whether it be of heaven or earth, is only gained by the discipline of life.

The men of hoary heads have gathered the fruits of a long and large experience. Especially are they worthy to receive our most sincere honor when God's truth has been teaching them and has led them all along the path of life. The hoary head is a crown of glory, if found in the way of righteousness." With all the respect we pay to the learned, we should "rise up" before the men, whom God has been long teaching in His school, those who have learned much of Jesus Christ.

Second, we should honor the aged because of their physical infirmities. These dear ones will not be with us long. He who does not love a little babe in its helplessness and he who does not honor the aged in their weakness, has very little heart in him.

"He is a savage in his heart, no matter how polished externally, who does not honor the face of an old man."

In these days of intense activity it is not an easy thing for the aged to keep up with the procession of humanity. And there people who have no patience with the aged. They regard them as being in the way, and they treat them with neglect. But let our strong and vigorous men and women keep in mind the divine command of our text. God has a purpose in prolonging the mortal lives of some of His saints, even after they have apparently finished their course. He would thereby teach us the wonders of His ways.

Let us honor these dear aged ones for God has honored them. Let the kind word and the glad hand be given to them. Let none of us be guilty of adding unnecessary furrows to their brows.

III. Third, we should honor age

for it is beautiful. "Long life and length of days" is considered complete and beautiful. It is like a shock of corn which cometh in its season. Death in youth seems unnatural to us. The broken column is a symbol of the unfinished life. It is better to live through the whole three score years and ten into full age.

There is a beauty of old age that neither youth nor the prime of manhood and womanhood possess. It is not the beauty of form or complexion; it is not the grace of motion.

It is inward beauty, shining through the chinks which time has made, illuminating the face with a soft, mild splendor, giving sweetness to the voice, gentleness to the action and an inexpressible charm to every look, word and act.

Fourth, let us rise up before the hoary head because it is near to Heaven. Christianity has shed a new glory over old age. It is the vestibule to the temple of a higher life. The aged patiently wait in the vestibule, ready to be admitted to the joys of the Lord.

I knew a couple of four score years who said that they found their last days their happiest days. One reason they gave was that they were nearer their heavenly home on the bright side of their three-score years and ten; they said on the bright side, because nearer the everlasting glory. They were like the peach which grows sweeter as it nears the time to drop from the stem. Such people never grow old in heart.

Let us honor the aged. They are nicer than we are. Soon they will be with us no more. Let us appreciate them while they are here.

Now is the time to bring them flowers and to speak kindly to them.

"NAVAJO" IS SOLD

The beautiful residence of Mrs. Rachael A. Dougherty, better known as the "Navajo", and formerly belonging to George McC. Hixon; was sold at auction by E. W. Ewbank of Hendersonville, on Saturday, October 15. Mr. Gay Green of Asheville was the purchaser and the price paid was \$7,500.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENT

It is rumored that The Brevard Electric Power System or Company is planning extensive improvements. It is urgently needed and will be appreciated.

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If Not, What Are You Waiting For?

A short crop of cotton for 1921 will cause cotton to advance, and everything else will follow suit. Our advice to you is to **BUY YOUR NEEDS AT ONCE**, for in case of a railroad strike traffic would be tied up indefinitely, and merchandise would be hard to get.

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