

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

LOOKING UNTO HIM
(Emphasis on Prayer)

Text: "They looked unto Him, and were lightened; and their faces were not ashamed." (Psalms 34:5)

Living on an earth level makes one earth-bound. Living on the prayer level makes one heaven-bound. The pull of the earth and the pull of heaven are realities of every day living. There are so many things on earth to catch our attention and our affection. There is the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. These things are not of the Father but of the world of evil.

To live in the spirit of the text will God-condition us instead of group-condition us; give us inner poise and stability. We are living in a day when many confess they feel the tension of being hurried and hurried. This is a sure way of going to pieces all over. A heavy foot and a heavy heart are not characteristics of the man of our text. To have a heavy foot on the accelerator of life and to have a heavy heart because of the pressures of life spells defeat. Spiritually, we cannot live in the speed or tempo of the times and keep prayerful or spiritual. We must slow down to look up.

Here is the GRACE of LOOKING UP: "They looked unto Him. . ."

This is focusing our attention and our affection on God. God welcomes this redemptive attitude from us. This experience is in the area of practice and habit.

God made man on two feet instead of four feet so that he may look up. God made man a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor. He did not say that He made man a little higher than the animals. Man is not an animal. No animal could possibly live in this verse. Man can live in this verse for man is honored of God with the ability to love and appreciate destiny. Man is made for the heights and for eternity.

Many Bible characters developed this grace of looking up. We find Daniel with his windows open toward Jerusalem and God, for he bowed his knees three times daily in prayer and praise. We read of Cornelius in his prayer room where his soul went up and the angel came down with the announcement that he was living under the benedictions of the Divine smile. His prayers and alms were held in memorial for the man of an upward look. Then there is Peter on the house top with the heavens opened upon him and manifold ministries reaching him from the heights. John on the Island of Patmos exercised the upward look. His mind and heart and spirit were filled with what he saw and heard and felt. The heavens pour into us the fullness of God as we lift our eyes upward.

Here is the GRACE of SHINING OUT: ". . . and were lightened. . ."

The grace of "looking up" will give us the grace of "shining out." This spiritual combi-



REV. D. M. CLARK

Rev. Coleman, Wife Mark 16th Anniversary

REV. and MRS. V. C. L. COLEMAN will celebrate their 16th anniversary at Second Baptist Church, 500 Madison Ave., Sept. 29 through Oct. 3, with the Rev. I. W. Wilson delivering the anniversary sermon on the final day program starting at 3 p.m.

Other programs have been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 29-30, Oct. 1 and 3, with sermons by Rev. F. N. Addison, Bishop C. C. Cox, Rev. J. L. Kemp and Rev. E. Pullens in that order. Rev. Joseph Jefferson will be the speaker at the regular Sunday morning service at 11:15 on Oct. 3. Also participating will be the Revs. E. C. Kline, J. C. Coleman, D. W. Smith, J. Y. Earl, C. L. Alexander, M. L. Carroll, A. J. Thompson, Leo A. Johnson, M. D. Bennett, A. B. Clark and J. L. Simmons; Sisters Lillie Scott, Samella Richardson, A. J. Thompson, Olivia Brown, M. E. Anderson, Dorothy Gordon, J. L. Kemp, Mary Love, R. G.

Hicks, I. W. Wilson and Esther Langston; Brothers E. Shields, Thomas Wilson, J. L. Scott and James Robinson.

Sisters Louise Burton, Addie Blake and Perry Fortson will serve as mistresses of ceremonies on the first three evenings and Brother Robert Ellison will be master of ceremonies for the Sunday morning program.

Committee chairmen are Sisters M. V. Smith, decorating, and Olivia Brown, gift; and Brother Oscar Hunt, finance. Committee members include Sisters Bessie Robinson, Robbie Jones, Erie Miller, Katie Perry, Beatrice Jackson, Mildred Daniels, Mary Burton, Addie Blake, Josephine Toney, Ollie Bowie, Virginia Griffins, Audrey James, Eliza Junior and Esther Langston; Brothers Leon Pullens, Noah Johnson, Tony Jackson, R. G. Reid, Dewey Moore, Sam Richardson, Percy Fletcher and James Robinson.

nation gives us the transformed individual. We read in Acts 6:15, "And all that sat in the council looking steadfastly on Him, saw His face as it had been a face of an angel." Stephen was a transformed person. He knew Christ. Stephen was going through the fires of human relations. He was disputing with church leaders of the synagogue of the libertines. He was dealing with important New Testament doctrines. The church leaders resorted to force. They hired men to twist his speech and accuse him. They set up false witnesses. In the next chapter they murdered him. But his face was still shining!

Without doubt, it was the radiance in the life and on the face of Stephen that won Paul to Christ. Radiance wins. Prayer creates radiance. Communion with God gives us the shining heart and the shining face. The shining face of Moses has thrown a luster across the centuries into our day. "And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses that the skin of his face shown." Exodus 34:35. Moses' heart religion was made public. The contents of the heart, whether good or evil, is made known.

Here is the GRACE of MEASURING UP: ". . . and their faces were not ashamed."

A genuine Christian will give God a maximum life. He fears the minimum life as he would fear a plague. To be sub-Christian is to be non-Christian. People who measure out their minds, hearts and time to God with a medicine dropper are giving God a minimum life instead of the maximum life which brings the smile and approval of God the Creator and God the Saviour. A transformed man never says, "I am doing as well as the average." He does not compare himself with sub-Christian standards about him.

The Christian is victorious. If life hands

him a lemon, he adds some sugar and makes it into lemonade. The point is in adding the sugar. Some add more lemon, the lemon of complaint and resentment. This only makes a sour soul with a sour countenance. A sour-visaged leader is always a church tragedy. The face can cancel out everything we say or do.

The 120 coming out of the Upper Room were transformed from flickering torches to flaming torches of gospel utterance and light. Ordinary men became extraordinary men doing extraordinary things in an extraordinary spirit. A new power moved them. If being a Christian among the worldly-minded makes your face fill with shame, you are sub-Christian in relation to God and to man.

Christ turns a timid believer into a triumphant witness for "Ye shall be my witnesses," is the word of the gospel. Christ produces a contagious, powerful type of witness. Surely we desire to be a strong witness instead of a weak one. The clouded, conflict-filled heart and face blows out the light of victorious witnessing.

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Ministers, Please Note!

WE ARE REVISING our Church Directory in order to add churches not now included and to up-date information on churches listed previously. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church has not been listed, please let us have the DENOMINATION of the church, the NAME of the church, the NAME of the pastor, a PHONE NUMBER where the pastor may be reached, and the ADDRESS of the church. If your church is incorrectly or incompletely listed in any of these respects, please send the necessary changes or additions to: Las Vegas VOICE, 958 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Thank you.