

Christian, Beware !

IT is true that Christianity does not exist of an accumulation of "Don'ts." It is not merely repressive.

But while this is so, it is also true that the putting off of our old man"—the mortifying of "our members which are upon the earth," requires constant watchfulness, prayerfulness and self-denial, or more truly, *denial of self* in its impulses and desires. We can never for one moment afford to forget that the flesh is in us—a traitor within, ready to open the heart's door to the foe without, who knows how to shape the temptation in the most deceptive manner, and we have to learn to say "NO" to it emphatically.

Satan's activities have been multiplied of late years in a most marked degree, indicating that the "perilous times" of which Scripture warns us are upon us in full detail.

But the most serious thing is, that in proportion as the danger *increases* the sensibility to it *diminishes* on the part of many Christians. The spirit of the age invades even the Christian assembly, and alas ! finds the heart's door of many open.

Lukewarmness and the love of pleasure have found a resting-place in many, and of course, find expression in their lives.

One of the latest snares of the devil is the "listening in" device.

This *may* in a very few instances be of a beneficial character, but one is safe in saying that the great preponderance of the "listening in" communications are of the nature of "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." From these the apostle earnestly pleads with us to abstain (1 Peter ii. 11).

Here the Christian can listen to the world's songs, music and speeches; may hear the world's plays without going to the theatre, may play the hypocrite unseen. Will anything truly godly be broad-casted by the centres of distribution ? Will sermons or addresses by true exponents of the Word be thus reported ?

The infinitesimal quantity of such distributions is simply used as a handful of dust to blind the perception to the true nature of all the rest.

The Christian cannot afford the time necessary for "listening in" if he is faithful to his calling of God. Then, what he gets destroys spiritual sensibilities, and gives him a bad conscience. Spiritual decline follows, and he is little more than a worldling, if indeed, as a backslider, he does not become even worse, and all this in one for whom Jesus died, and who at one time rejoiced in the sense of His love, and in testimony for Him.

Then, the absence of young Christians at meetings for godly edifying is very marked. Where are they on these occasions? Alas, very often where the passing pleasures of time take them. The tennis court, the golf course, the football field, the concert hall (misnamed "Sacred," for such concerts are far from "holy") the social party, etc., and now this "listening in," take the place of the meeting for prayer, for hearing, or study of the Word of God. Of these, Christians though they be, it must be written with great sadness that they are "Lovers of pleasures *more than* lovers of God"—the preference they have for such things proves it; but the sad thing in connection with "listening in" is, that the young Christian, brother or sister, can take part in worldly amusements without being seen.

Oh, the hellish wisdom of Satan in the selection of this instrument of spiritual ruin!

Beware of it, my dear young brother and sister. Shun it as a pit dug for you by the enemy of your soul—as a poison laid most cunningly for your destruction.

Let not the devil laugh at his success over you, but maintain a close walk with God, and in communion with the Lord enjoy even now those blessed, heavenly, pure, divine pleasures which are for evermore—which fill the heart with joy and the lips with praise, and make you to unconsciously be a power for God and eternity with those around you. So shall you glorify God and answer to the desires of the Saviour, the Son of God, who loved you, and gave Himself for you.

In all things do not forget that your ear, your hand, your foot, has the sanctifying “blood” and “oil” upon them (Exodus xxix. 20, 21; Leviticus xiv. 25-28). You yourself are claimed for God in the efficacy of the death of Christ and in the power of the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

The turning aside to the world for pleasure only speaks of an unsatisfied heart, but the quest is a vain one. Only He who saved can satisfy, *but He can*, and He is worthy of all your life and all your love.

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