

and indifference. The people took their privileges and blessings for granted as though they were theirs by natural right.

They soon forgot the river; they forgot that God had blessed them and they turned to other gods. They were going to be practical, so they turned to idols. How simple it is to let down spiritual defenses and admit that which seemed so innocent and yet becomes a seed of corruption.

The case of Israel's decay and moral decline is the same case as national decline. They were met by the judgements of God, and His very nature is holy and they were unchecked. Now, a judge would bring them back to God. Again, blessings and prosperity would be experienced.

Some of the judges were great for a period of time. Gideon, for example, was listed among the Hebrews of faith in Hebrews 11. Samson is also mentioned and other men and women are mentioned.

God gave Samson credit for judging Israel 20 years as in Judges 13:5 we read. God places the best construction upon the fact.

Now what about the Philistines. Well, they migrated across the Mediterranean by way of Cyprus, and they advanced. They were terrible instruments of judgement.

*Protein Loss*

*judges 16:20*

Introduction:

We all go on committing daily the same old sins without end as though no improvement were possible and there was no promise of deliverance through Christ.

Herman Redpath says, "The conversion of the soul is a miracle of a moment; the manufacture of a saint is a task of a lifetime." We might add that the stuff saints are made out of is costly stuff. As Sam Rutherford remarked about the spiritual victory, "The price will not come down."

It hasn't. The cost of practical holiness has never been lowered. There are few who know the cost of holiness and are willing to pay for it. Where, in our day, the privilege of freedom do we find those who are fully committed to that Christ, the Lord? This is a day in which we kind of peddle a cheap grace on the religious market. We say that the choicest blessings of the Christian life can come through cut-rate prices. The Christian continues to model himself after the world's standards.

But grace is costly because it cost a man his life. It is costly because it condemns sin; it justifies the sinner. The life of the world and the life of the Christian are brought in conflict the moment we accept grace. The cost of