

S.N. Jan 30, 77 Am.
P.

RIGHT TURN ON RED

Gen. 13:9

There has been initiated in the State of Virginia, as of January 1, 1977, a new law. This law has been in practice in many states already. And there was a program of education. A program of training and cultivating people in their driving habits to make a right turn on red at the crossings. This is a new innovation.

You will note that in your journey of life - you are brought many times to the crossroads. This is a place of decision. It is a place where you go right or you go the wrong way. It is a place of destruction.

Any many times when you come to the crossroad - it may be a place of stress. And some choices need to be made. *People come to church from a sense of needs.*

The poet said "to everyone there openeth a way, and ways, and a way. And the high soul climbs the high way. And the low soul gropes the low. And in between on the misty flats, the rest drift too and fro. But to every man that openeth, a high way and a low--and every man decideth the way his soul shall go."

So many things influence one in the choice of the road he will follow. You may be inclined to follow the crowd. It is a temptation to go the way the crowd goes. And quite often if you go the way of the crowd, you will impede your own progress. You will lose your own power of initiative. Because the crowd often blocks your way.

You need to travel the road of purpose. Remember it is up to you as to the choice you will travel.

We all like symbols. Symbolic things speak to us. And traffic lights speak to us. A red light in the traffic means stop. It means that there is danger. It means a warning to you to slow down. When you see that red light. That means to stop.

Now the new law, which has come in, says - that you can make a right turn on red. You come to the place to stop, of danger, of things passing. As things clear up, and you have the option of going on your way, your journey, without hindering you. Without blocking you. Hence, you can make a right turn on red. You cannot make a left - that is wrong.

I have rambled through the Bible this week, I have looked in Isaiah where in 30:21 it says - this is the way, the right way. God will point you to turn to the right way. I looked in Hebrews in which we discover that Jesus our Lord, made a right turn on red and in 1, and 3 - finished his work and sat down on the right hand of the father.

The text that I want to base my remarks on is found in the Old Testament - it is old but it is new. And it has something to say to each of us. Gen. 13:9. If thou shall take the left hand - then I shall go to the right. And if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

Here was a man making a choice. The other part of this chapter tells us about Abraham and Lot and his family coming up to Bethel. And their herds and their tents, and their families were growing. And the land was not able to bear this great host of people because their substance was great.

And strife began to come - stress and strain among them. And there was a need for a decision to be made. Somebody had to turn on red - because there was a danger

sign. And Lot was given the choice. And Lot lifted up his eyes and looked upon the plains of Jordan which were well watered. And which seemed to be rich. And he chose the plains and he journeyed to the East. And Abraham dwelt in the land of Canaan where he was. But the fatal thing here is that Lot made the wrong turn. He went the wrong way. And he soon was caught up in the materialism and in the city life of Sodom and Gomorrah. And he lost his whole family. And they were all destroyed.

In the book of Genesis here we discover that the man had a freedom of choice to make.

Also, in the book of Genesis we discover that there was a time when there was no sin, there was no sorrow, no death, no pain, no heartache - and God saw everything that he made and behold, it was good. Gen. 1:31.

God gave man a body, a mind, and a spirit and he gave man the freedom of choice. A man has the power to make a right turn on red. That is, if you get the truth that I am driving at. When there are problems and things that come up in a man's life, God gives him the power to make a choice. He has the freedom. He can voluntarily do this. He can chose right or wrong. Just as there were two voices in the Garden of Eden - God spoke and the serpent spoke. And God wanted these people to go right - to make a right turn on red - but instead they listened to the serpent. And you know the story of how man yielded to the voice of the tempter. And he fell from his fellowship with God and how the flowers and the fruit decayed and everything became subject to death. 2:17.

And through this avenue of disobedience entered into a one time peaceful and happy world. And as a result, man came to know sorrow of heart. And man from time to time has come right up against the red light of danger. He has had to make decisions.

The distress that you experience this morning, is not necessarily the direct result of your own sin. I would venture further to say, that the distress you have today may not be that of your parents.

But I can truthfully say to you that I know for a certainty that every heartache that your mind has today in the way of frustration dates back to the day when sin entered the world.

Our world today is making progress. It is getting to be more complex. It is more trying. We have more red lights that we bump into as we try to make ends meet. As we try to keep up with the Jones'. As we have to try to buy things that we do not need to influence the people that we do not like.

For the most part, even the people that I speak too this morning, are dissatisfied people. We all want to be somewhere we aren't. We want to have some things we can't have. And we'd like to make some changes purely for the sake of change.

Did you know there are millions of people today who suffer physically, mentally, because they like a change in things. But they don't know why. Just for the sake of change. Now I think Christianity can help - we live under pressure today. And these red lights are flashing in front of us - and we need to know how to make a right turn on red. They tell us that half of the hospital beds in America, are occupied by emotionally, mentally ill people.

The records show us today that 1 out of every 3 families in America - that is 1 out of every 3 families represented here today - there will be one member of the family that will need professional help or they will have some mental illness - and this is one of our real health problems as it mounts up into the millions of people that are being treated.

I think Christianity has one of the greatest influences to produce harmony and peace of mind. And confidence.

But like Dr. Walter Alberaz says, that our emotional illnesses do not come from one large emotion. As I would today translate that for my own text here. It is not that we come face to face with one glaring red light - but it a result of a drip, drip, drip of seemingly unimportant things. The everyday run of anxiety - fear, disappointments, longings. These things have come to be a daily pattern of behaviour with us. And hence, it is a problem.

Now, when Lot came to the red light - instead of making a right turn on red - he decided to stay on in the world. And get out there where the danger was. He didn't accept it as a caution.

Now there are some things that I want to talk to you about. You need to make a right turn on red concerning.

I. FEAR

This word includes such things as anxiety or worry. It would be impossible for us to live our lives successfully without a certain amount of this. We become anxious when we perhaps ride in an airplane or ride in a car. Or the daily things we are involved in. God has somehow made it this way.

But (constant worry) and labor under the pressure is wrong and dangerous. Your heart beats faster, you get knots in your stomach, your hands become clammy. And if you constantly live in a state of tension, anxiety, your nerves are tense and on edge - from morning until night. This excessive thing will bring depression,

and physical exhaustion.

If you are afraid that you do not have what it takes to meet life - you become moody and quarrelsome and self-conscious. You develop fear of other people and their opinions of you.

One man said that the outstanding motion that he found in the study of people was fear. Many times it was unreasonable. Often it was vague. Sometimes formless but it was there.

Now if you will make a right turn on red about this matter of fear, the Bible has a whole lot to say about this. I John 4:18. There is no fear in love - but perfect love casts out fear. Fear hath torment.

Who of us has not known the torment of fear. John reminds us that if we are all filled with love - there can be no fear. Because love will evaporate fear.

Jesus had something to say in the great sermon on the mount. He says, don't worry and keep saying what shall we eat, what shall we wear. This is the way the pagans are - they are always looking for. Now your heavenly father knows what they need and what you need. Set your heart on his kingdom and his goodness and all of these things will come to you as a matter of course. Don't worry at all about tomorrow. Matt. 6:31, 34. Philip gives a beautiful translation of this -

Phil. 4:7 - And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. And God's children ought to live this way.

You make a right turn on red - and what you do is, you leave these things in God's

care. One cannot cease being anxious if he gets up in the morning and says, well, I'll make a resolution today that I am going out and through the world today without worry. Now Jesus said the thing to do when you come to this red light - set your heart on his kingdom and his goodness. You must direct your thinking towards Jesus Christ and his kingdom. In making the right turn. The things of God, must have priority in our lives. We center our life in Christ and we begin to find a new way of life. And we begin to put our trust in him. Our lack of trust is actually the cause of our anxiety.

When you look within your own life for the answers to the problem, we trust our own resources - for our own physical and financial needs. But in a sense, we are bankrupt. We are inadequate. If only we were trusting in God for our needs - these anxieties would cease. Because our trust is an adequate source.

Eph. 3:20 - He is able to do exceedingly abundantly all we ask or think. Now our dependance is upon God and his word. We know that to them that love God, all things work together for good. Even to them that are called according to his purpose. Rom. 8:28. Now the rain and the sunshine, the snow and the ice, and this cold weather we have been having down about zero is going to fall on the unemployed and the employed. It is going to fall on the rich and the poor and all are going to be touched by it. But our faith in God is this - God who notices when a sparrow falls to the ground and knows exactly the number of hairs on our head. He is interested in us.

Before Jesus went back to Heaven, he told his disciples, lo, I am going to be with you always. And we are told in I Peter 5:7 - let him have all of your worries and cares for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you. That is a holy thought. And that is making a right turn on red. And you can recover from worry. No wonder Paul wrote to Timothy - God hath not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. 2 Tim. 1:7.

name. showed face of mind - Young Man, what - health, Beauty, talent, power, riches,
name. showed to wise man, very good; took one ingredient - pencil - wrote "face of mind"
young man Joshua Hillman, later wrote Book "face of mind" -8- "Sold over million - Principle "No man should
2 masters" - - -

So the first symbol here is fear. Make a right turn on red.

II. ALCOHOL

Make a right turn on red. Excessive drinking brings problems to the family. Even problem drinkers who are not alcoholics can see that drinking is costing them more than it is worth. You need to replace this drinking experience with something that is better. If you do not make a right turn on red concerning alcohol, Matt. 12:43, 45 says the last state of that man was worse than the first. He was speaking about a man who had an unclean spirit.

Alcoholics do not get better with time. You can sit there and wait for the light to change and get worse. Usually the alcoholics lose their friends, jobs, and family - even his health before he comes to his senses.

A crisis will have to come before he is aware of this.

In Fairfax Country recently they have become so alarmed over the increased drinking among teen-agers. That they, the Board of Supervisors voted 7-1 to ask the Virginia Assembly to raise the drinking age from 18⁷-20. They said that since the 18 year old could buy it in 1974 on - that the drinking age has been lowered and the problem has increased to where children 13 and 14 now have become drinkers and are regularly drinking. They said the adult society is responsible for this. The courts, the police, the officers. This is largely responsible for the increase in teen-age violence, crime, and automobile accidents.

70% of all assaults are made by people intoxicated. 65% of all the murders are blamed on drunkenness.