

Jim Pierson Collection of P.H. Welshimer Sermons

Milligan College Archives and
Special Collections
P.H. Welshimer Memorial Library
Milligan College, TN 37682

Email: archives@milligan.edu
Telephone: (423)461-8695

INTRODUCTION

Title: Jim Pierson Collection of P.H. Welshimer Sermons

Collection Number: 47

Accession Number: 006-2008

Physical Description: 34 sermons (1 folder)

Creator: Jim Pierson

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance: Gene Wigginton delivered these materials to the Archives on behalf of Jim Pierson on March 25, 2008. The materials were gifts to Jim Pierson from P.H. and Helen Welshimer.

Access: The collection is open for research.

Processing Information: Upon donation, these materials included 34 handwritten sermon outlines by P.H. Welshimer and a box of books. The books had all been signed by P.H. and/or Helen Welshimer as gifts to Jim Pierson but had no other archival value. They were given to the library for possible inclusion in the lending collection.

The sermons were donated in very good condition and little processing was done to them. Metal fasteners were replaced with plastic and the sermons were placed in a buffered folder. Ginger Dillon finished processing this collection in June 2008. The finding aid, including a list of sermon titles, was written at that time.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Pearl Welshimer was born to Samuel and Louisa Jane Wilson Welshimer at Union Center, Union County, Ohio, on April 6, 1873. As a boy he was envious of the fact other children had middle names and he did not, so he selected for himself the middle name "Howard." In his adult years he was most often known simply as "P.H."

Welshimer's parents were both strong supporters of what is now called the Stone-Campbell Movement. P.H. grew up in a home that valued both faith and education. He graduated from Ohio Northern University at Ada in 1894. In his final year of school there, university president Henry Lehr pulled Welshimer aside and urged him to abandon

the study of law for the ministry. As a result, Welshimer attended Hiram College to study preaching. After graduating from Hiram in 1897, Welshimer accepted a call to a Christian church in Millersburg, Ohio. The congregation in Millersburg saw growth under Welshimer's leadership and he became well loved by that congregation. Welshimer also met his wife, Clara Horning, in Millersburg. The two were married in her parents' home in Vermilion, Ohio, on May 15, 1900. They had three children: Helen, Mildred (Phillips), and Ralph.

Welshimer resigned from the pulpit in Millersburg to accept a call from the First Christian Church of Canton, Ohio in January of 1902. He stayed at this church for the rest of his life. Under Welshimer's guidance the Canton congregation became one of the largest Christian Church congregations in the country, especially well known for the unusual methods Welshimer used to attract people to worship and the success of its Sunday School program. Welshimer himself published a number of books, sermons, articles, and tracts. He was also a highly sought after speaker, a member of the Commission on Restudy, president of the short-lived Phillips Bible Institute, as well as an active member and twice president of the North American Christian Convention.

An honorary Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred upon Welshimer by Milligan College in 1948 – one of three honorary degrees given to him. He received many other awards, accolades, and honorary memberships throughout his ministry.

P.H. Welshimer passed away August 16, 1957.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains 34 undated sermon outlines written by P.H. Welshimer. The sermons almost certainly come from Welshimer's long tenure at the First Christian Church of Canton, Ohio. This collection is not broken down into series.

SERMON TITLES

Not all sermons in this collection had been given titles or scripture references. When a topic could be discerned on untitled sermons it is noted here by placing the topic in parenthesis.

The Folk Whom Jesus Complemented
The Great Invitation, Revelation 22:17
What manner of man is this? Matthew 8:27
Conversion, Acts 3:19
Andrew – 1st Rate 2nd Rate Man, John 1:40
“I was not Disobedient to Heavenly,” Acts 2
One Day with Jesus, Matthew 9:35
Stephen – a Full Man, Acts 6:8
The Winsome Christ
“And immediately she arose up and ministered to them.” Luke 4:39

The Sin of Neglect, Hebrews 2:3
A Divided Church – the Tragedy of Christendom
The mind of Christ
Hebrews 9:16 (God’s Will and Testament)
Heir – the Hand Holder, Exodus 17:12
“And his strength went from him,” Judges 16:19 (Sampson)
I am the way, etc. John 14:16
What Religion is for
His discip[les] walked no more with him, John 6:66
Acts 5:5 (Cornelius and Peter)
What think ye of the Christ? Whose son is he? Matthew 22:42
Finger of Proph[ecy] Points to Calvary, Luke 24:27
Luke 1:6 (Zacharias and Elizabeth)
Nuts for skeptics to crack, Psalms 14:1
An appeal to youth, Psalms 144:11-12, 15
Why sit we here until we die? II Kings 7:3
How shall we escape? Hebrews 2:3
Jeremiah 8:5 (Backsliding)
Why sit we here until we die? II Kings 7:3 (*This outline is titled the same as a previous one but has slightly different content.*)
Jesus’ triumph over human cunning, Matthew 22:15-46 and Matthew 12:38-40
Gates, Matthew 7:13-14
The prepared man, Isaiah 2:1-4
Jesus – the master preacher