

A fitting epitaph —

"I Have Fought a Good Fight . . ."

The apostle Paul's last testimony, read at the quiet family memorial service by Sam Stone, minister of the Western Hill church in Cincinnati, was a fitting epitaph to the life of Professor Rupert C. Foster.

This veteran of The Faith passed from this life to the next during his sleep at 7 a.m., Saturday, June 6, 1970 in his summer cottage at Rock Lake, Michigan. A great host of friends, both from the city and from out of town, visited at the Dalbert-Woodruff Funeral Home on Monday evening, June 9. Private family services were conducted at the funeral home at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning by Woodrow Perry, Sam Stone and Harvey Bream, Jr. Interment was at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati.

Home Life

Rupert Clinton Foster was born February 26, 1888 in Owenton, Kentucky to the union of George Alvin Foster, a dentist, and Eliza Ottawa Foster. His grandfather, John W. Foster was a minister. He became a Christian at the age of 12.

Education

Professor Foster graduated from New Albany, Indiana High School in 1905. He received the A.B. and M.A. degrees from Transylvania University in 1910. The Classical Diploma was bestowed upon him by the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky in 1911. Here he studied under J. W. McGarvey. The M.A. and B.D. were conferred upon him by Yale University in 1912. The latter was Cum Laude. He also led the Yale Debate team against Princeton in 1912. He studied in Harvard University 1912-15. He received the William's Fellowship the last two years at Harvard. He held membership in Sigma Upsilon and Delta Sigma Rho.

Family

On August 25, 1909 he married Ora Fay Lewis. She continues to reside in Cincinnati. The daughter



R. C. Foster

Dorothy Fay (Mrs. Earl Richards), lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and his son, Lewis Alvin, is Dean of the Graduate School of The Cincinnati Bible Seminary. There are 6 grandchildren. The Fosters spent most of their married life in their home at 941 Grand Avenue on Price Hill in Cincinnati. The summers were spent in their cottage at Rock Lake, Vestaburg, Michigan.

Ministries

Professor Foster's first sermon, based on Romans 12, was preached on November 12, 1905. He became co-minister with his grandfather, John W. Foster, at the Old Corinth Church near Georgetown, Kentucky.

While at Harvard, 1912-15, he ministered to the Hancock Street Church of Christ at Everett, Massachusetts. Also, there is some evidence he preached for the church at Lynn, Massachusetts during part of this period.

He preached for the church in Springfield, Kentucky 1918-24 and at Bethel, Ohio 1925-31.

On November 15, 1955, the C.B.S. chapel service was the occasion of his 50th Anniversary in the ministry. He presented a masterful sermon. "The Flaming Evangel," based on Mat-

thew 11. A male quartet sang "FOSTER" to the tune of "MOTHER"; for example, "F" is for the faith" The student body presented a Lazy-Boy chair to him.

Dynamic power and persuasiveness characterized his preaching. Many have considered Professor Foster as a "proclaimer of the Gospel" and "defender of the faith" par excellence.

A recent highlight of his ministry was his dedicatory address, "The Battlefield," given on November 14, 1968, at the dedication of The Edwin G. Crouch Memorial Building. This address is published in *The Seminary Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Fall, 1968 and in the *Restoration Herald*, Vol. XLIII, No. 2, February, 1969.

Teaching

He served on the faculty of McGarvey Bible College, Louisville, Kentucky from 1923-24. He taught Life of Christ, Historical Geography and Greek. He then taught in The Cincinnati Bible Seminary from 1924 to the time of death. In addition to the foregoing classes he taught Campbell Debates, Hebrews, James, Catholic Epistles, Pastoral Epistles and Revelation.

Professor Foster was described as Master Teacher by the late S. A. Witmer, Executive Director of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges in 1960. The A.A.B.C. Newsletter stated: "There is always a plus factor to effective teaching. Unless that element is present the advantages of optimum physical conditions can be largely nullified. It is the *teacher himself*. In this instance, he was a master teacher — a master of subject matter, of technique, of the entire instructional procedure. His questions probed for thoroughness of preparation in terms of knowing subject matter, but they went much farther. They aimed to deepen understanding and lead the student to appreciate the significance of historical facts."