his astonishment one lady stood up. He said, "Well, madam, are you perfect ?"

"Oh, dear no," she said, "but I've often heard of one who was."

"Might I ask," said the preacher, "who was that?"

"My husband's first wife."

She didn't believe it. Nobody believed it, even her husband. That is a
way of emphasizing the point here. There is no way out. You are lost. *end of 1.*

Now you come to the passage, "But now the righteousness of God without the law
is manifest." He witnessed by the law and the prophets. Now as you know, some of
you at all events, the Greek genitive is about as elusive as the English genitives.
The righteousness of God may mean several things. It may mean, of course, God's
inherent ~~right~~ righteousness, the righteousness that God possesses. Or it may
mean the righteousness that God requires, the righteousness of God. That is the
law says, "Thou shalt not steal." The righteousness of God requires that I shall
be perfectly free of theft. Of course, I think I am and I look at it superficially.

I never as far as I know put my hand into anybody's pocket and extracted even
half a dollar. But when I begin to look into the commandment, have I ever wasted
time that belongs to somebody else? Have I been always absolutely scrupulous
about my income tax returns? Have I ne ver said, "ask," what does the cent
matter?" So when I begin to look into the law I find that even the ~~inx~~ law,
"Thou shalt not steel " which I thought at first left me entirely unstaid,
may really effect my life. That is God's righteousness. God says, "You must be
absolutely $2 - 2\frac{1}{2}$. Nobody can point a finger at you. You must be
absolutely clear before God no matter how penetrating the judgment. Now there
have been volumes written as to ~~what we~~ mean, *the* by the righteousness of God. I ~~must~~ *once very*
daringly said
~~say~~ that if St. Paul happened to pick up a commentary by Bishop Westcott who is
a very fine and great student, a great genius, I think he would say, "Did I say
all that?" I suggest to you today that you ask St. Paul which did he mean,