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## Men and Religion To-Day and Fifty Years Ago

Wiley Winton Smith

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MEN AND RELIGION TO-DAY  
AND  
FIFTY YEARS AGO

W. W. SMITH

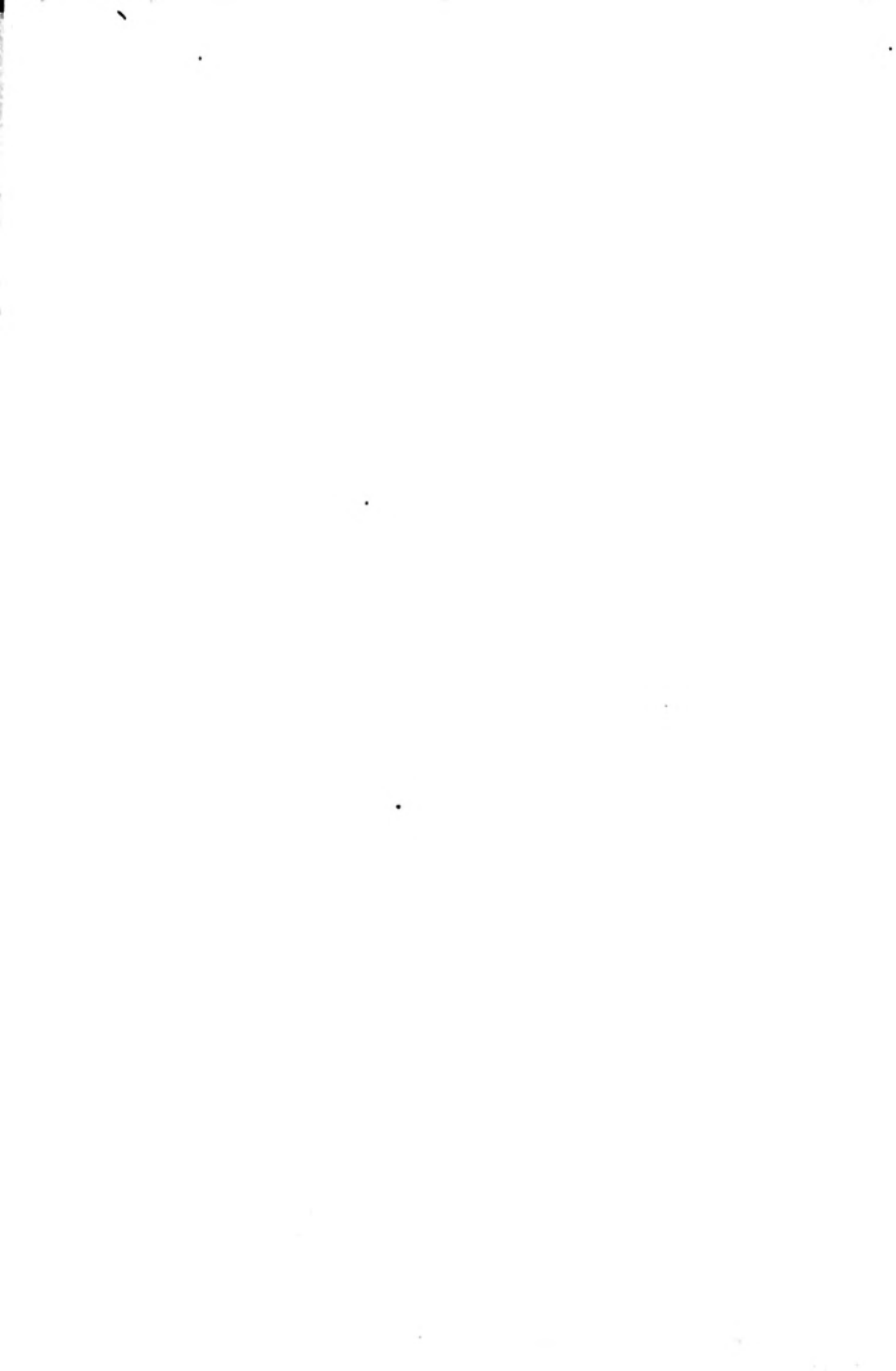
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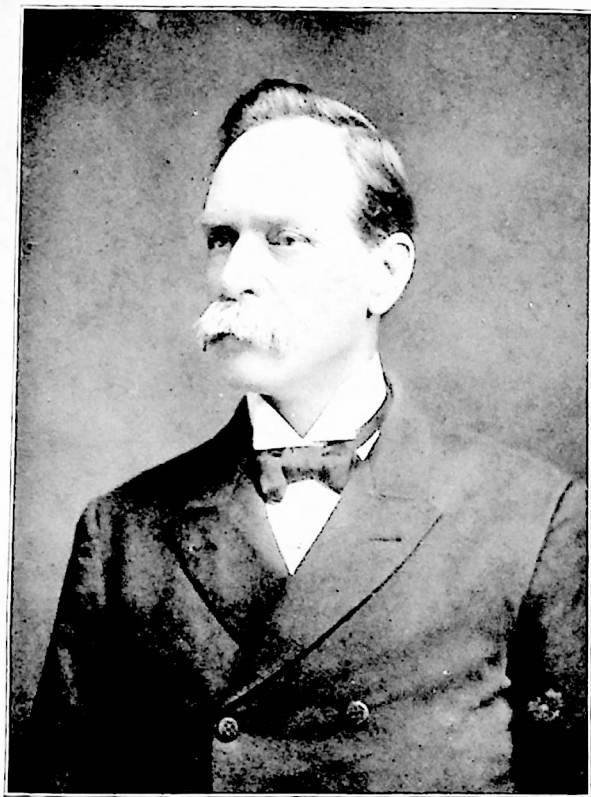
WEST VIRGINIANA  
COLLECTION

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REV. W. W. SMITH

# Men and Religion To-Day *and* Fifty Years Ago

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By Evangelist W. W. SMITH

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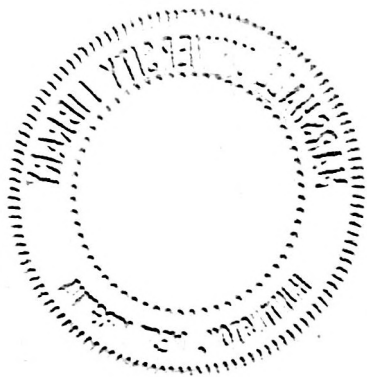
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REV. W. W. SMITH  
Wytheville, Va.





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## Preface

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### THREE REASONS FOR THIS BOOK

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The first reason I have given this book to the public is because so many people in the last few years have asked me if the world is growing better or worse. I have written this book to answer their question. The second reason is because so many people have asked me for a new book, as "The Way to Heaven," and "The Bright Side of Life," have been such a help to their Christian life and have made them see more clearly how they can be certain of Heaven. The third reason is because persons have been saved while reading these books. I hope many more may be saved, even years after I have gone to the better world. When L. E. Tierney, President of the Powhatan mines, gave me a check for twenty-five dollars for the "Bright Side of Life" he said, "The reason I am so interested in your books is because I am looking at the future good they will do. Thousands of people will be reading these books and ministers preaching these sermons long years after you and I are gone."

## Introduction

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I was born in Wythe County, Virginia, in 1855, and was converted at the age of fourteen. From that time I had convictions that I must preach the Gospel, but often on the farm I prayed and cried to get rid of those convictions, but could never drive them from my mind.

I was educated at Rural Retreat and Salem, Virginia. When in the senior class of 1882 at Roanoke College, at the close of the session I took fever and was sick for almost a year, and the physicians did not think I would live. When I got well I began preaching as an evangelist, and for more than thirty years averaged over a sermon a day and was only kept from one service in that time by sickness; that was when preaching in the First Presbyterian Church in Bristol, Tennessee. That night Dr. Wallace filled my appointment.

I was married in Bristol, Tennessee, in 1892, to Miss Lillian Grubbs. We have but one child, a son, who was born in San Jose, California. Since our marriage we have traveled and preached over most of the United States; also

part of Canada and Mexico. During that time we have gone from five to ten thousand miles a year, and have never been in a wreck by train or steamer.

My parents are dead. My father was eighty-seven and my mother eighty-two at the time of their death. They were then living on the same farm where they first went to housekeeping when married. They were married over sixty-five years and kept up the family altar most of that time. I was converted at that altar one night about eight o'clock. I will look back to that night for all time and eternity and praise the Lord for what He did for my soul.

W. W. SMITH,  
Wytheville, Virginia.

## A Sketch of Towns in Virginia and West Virginia

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I will give a sketch of some of the towns in Virginia and West Virginia in which I held revivals more than thirty years ago, when some had no churches and others were more than sixty miles from any railroad.

I have seen these towns come up like mushrooms, or like the flowers which spring up along the bank of some little stream in the spring.

### CLIFTON FORGE, VA.

I preached here in 1891 when the part of the town which is now the best business part, was then an old field, and they would show me trees here and there on which a man had been lynched. Clifton Forge is now a good business town and the people are intelligent. They also have a taste for good literature as they bought my books in banks and stores all over the town.

### RONCEVERT AND LEWISBURG, W. VA.

These are good business towns. I held meetings in these towns in 1890. Many who were then converted have since that time gone to the

good world. Lewisburg is an old county seat in the midst of a beautiful farming section. Large farms all around the town on which many cattle are grazed. I still have some good friends in these towns who remember the good work that was done in 1890.

#### HINTON, W. VA.

I held a revival in this place in 1890, in which hundreds were converted. The town then had eight or ten saloons, and for several days after a pay day on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad there would be shooting and killing, but after the revival a pay train could pass over the road and you would never know there had been a pay day. E. M. Engals, president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, said God had so blessed the railroad men in the revival that he would help to raise money to put up the Christian Association buildings at Hinton and Clifton Forge. I still have many good friends in Hinton who remember me kindly for the much good done in the revivals I held in that place. May the Lord continue to bless and prosper these good people.

#### LEBANON, VA.

This is the county seat of Russell, and is a beautiful town of intelligent people, high on the

hills of Southwest Virginia, letting her light shine. I held the first revival here in 1891, when a number of lawyers, merchants and farmers were converted. Some were saved who became ministers. One is out west preaching who has increased his talents ten times. May the Lord continue to bless him in his work till he may increase a hundred fold.

#### COEBURN, VA.

I held my first revival here in a schoolhouse before any churches were built in the place. In that meeting a number of merchants and other men were converted who afterward built churches and all other kind of buildings. Some men were converted who became ministers of the Gospel. Coeburn is now a good business town, surrounded by a number of coal mines, such as Toms Creek and a number of others. I held several revivals in this place in the churches and also under a tent, and the good people were always ready to aid me in a good work.

#### BRAMWELL, W. VA.

This is one of the best towns for its size in the country. The most of the people are coal operators, not *cold* operators. They make their living warming and steaming up the world instead



of freezing it. I have been there with my books several times and the people always show how highly they appreciate good literature.

#### WELCH, W. VA.

I held a revival in Welch, in an old school-house, in 1889, before any churches were built in the place. Welch is the county seat of McDowell, and right in the heart of one of the greatest coal fields in all the country. For miles, in every direction, through the mountains, mines are being operated. This is a great business town; good banks, hotels, nice stores and good church buildings. I held several revivals in this place and sold my books, "The Way to Heaven," and "The Bright Side of Life." Many of the business men, lawyers, bankers and merchants have been very nice and generous toward me and showed their appreciation of the value of my books when they bought them by giving often more than the price of a book. May the Lord continue his blessing upon the people of Welch for their good deeds.

#### WILLIAMSON, W. VA.

I held a revival here about twenty years ago. At that time the place had seven or eight saloons. A few days after I began the revival I went into the saloons and had prayer. Some New York

paper got hold of it and said Williamson was the most religious town in the United States, that they opened their saloons every morning with prayer at seven o'clock. Williamson is now a good business town of about ten thousand people, and is also the central town on the Norfolk and Western Railway between Radford, Va., and Columbus, Ohio. I have some good friends in this city among the lawyers, bankers and merchants, who showed their taste for good literature when they bought my books. I shall often remember these friends in my prayers for their kindness in aiding me in a good work.

#### BECKLEY, W. VA.

I held a meeting here in 1891 in a little union church. The town had then about three or four hundred people. Beckley is now a beautiful city of ten or fifteen thousand inhabitants. It is also a town of wealth, surrounded by a beautiful rim of mountains, rich with many coal mines. Some of the converts of those revivals are still living in Beckley and are still old friends that remember the great good done in those meetings; but most of them have gone to another world. May those still living continue to do good acts for which they will be rewarded when they meet the Giver of all good gifts.

## LOGAN, W. VA.

When I went to Logan to hold a revival, in 1891, I rode horseback from Prince's Station over the mountains sixty-five miles. Logan was that distance from the railroad. When I got there Cary Alderson, who is now the president of the Guyan Valley Bank, and Judge Wilkinson and others lit up the old courthouse with lamps and tallow candles for me to preach. The town then had two or three hundred people. It is now one of the best (if not the best) business towns for its size in the state. It is surrounded by some of the largest coal operations in the state. I have a number of good friends in this town who always show how highly they appreciate my work when I put my books on the market. The last time I was there, every man in the courthouse but one bought my books and some of them gave twice the price. I shall not forget these good friends in my best thoughts.

## CHARLESTON, W. VA.

I held a revival here in 1892. Charleston had then about five or six thousand inhabitants. They say before that date every once and awhile they would move the capital up and down the Ohio River from Wheeling to Charleston, but since the

old capital was burned and they have built a new one it is too large to move and has now become a stationary capital. This is a delightful city, with intelligent, nice people. I sold my books all over the city to bankers, lawyers, doctors, merchants and all classes of the highest type of politeness and manners. May these good people continue to do good deeds.

“Sow besides all waters,  
Where the dew of Heaven may fall,  
And ye shall reap if ye be not weary,  
For the Spirit of God breathes over all.”

**WHAT SOME MINISTERS HAVE SAID OF  
REV. W. W. SMITH, with regard to his work  
and preaching as an evangelist and author.**

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BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA.

I am delighted to say that if your book on Revivals should measure up to the standard of the "Way to Heaven" you are not only a great power in the pulpit as an orator, but a most pleasing and inspiring success as a sermon writer also. I have no hesitation, whatever, in fact, it affords me no little amount of pleasure to testify to the soundness of your teaching on the most fundamental doctrine of the Bible and principle of Christianity, viz.: The Atonement, and this is most manifest because of the good character of your work. No other preacher of the Gospel has ever given me the kind of help along this line that you have. I thank God for an Evangelist who in this age of unsoundness in so many principles of Christianity has a message of Salvation by Grace that saves to the uttermost all who come unto Him, and at the same time fearless enough to proclaim it. May God continue to bless you, my

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dear brother, and give His word success through you and your book. Your brother in Christ,

L. P. GROVES,  
*Pastor First Baptist Church.*

—  
CLEBURNE, TEXAS.

“Evangelist W. W. Smith, of Pulaski, Virginia, is now holding a revival in the First Baptist Church. He has, during this week, preached almost every day in the public school and in the railroad shops, and prayed in stores, a number of saloons and in perhaps a hundred houses. I never saw his equal as a constant and intense worker. Everywhere the Lord blesses his work and at night great crowds come to hear him. He is desperately in earnest and is the greatest personal worker and soul winner I ever saw. His preaching is with tears, his proposition to the unsaved is broad and sweeping, and comes like a flash, and men are moved and brought to Christ on the first impulse, even when they had come as only indifferent spectators. I do not know how many have been saved. There were, in my opinion, thirty or more saved on last Sunday. The meetings still continue and we are praying for still greater results.”

CHAS. T. ALEXANDER,  
*Pastor of First Baptist Church.*

Rev. Brown, pastor of the Main Street Methodist Church, is a regular attendant upon the meeting. He is enthusiastic in his praise of Evangelist Smith. He says, "He is a wonderful man and I want all the Methodists especially to hear him. He will do them good. I have been greatly revived and strengthened by hearing him. Evangelist Smith is a Godly man and an all-round mixer and does not hesitate to go into a saloon and invite the proprietor and the frequenters of such places to come out to church."

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MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY.

"Brother Smith's preaching was enjoyed by the people of this city very much indeed. He set in motion mighty forces for good; surely his stay among us will prove a great blessing to many. He is a man of remarkable gifts, tender as a child and as brave as a lion. No man is sounder or clearer on doctrine of grace than he is, and then he is a man of prayer. While here he spent more than two hours a day in prayer for the salvation of souls."

G. W. PERRYMAN,

*Pastor of First Baptist Church.*

## WILLIAMSBURG, KENTUCKY.

"We have had truly a great meeting here with W. W. Smith. He is the greatest soul winner I have ever seen, and, better still, he gets the members of the Church to do the same. We had about one hundred professions of faith, and to date seventy have joined the Church for baptism. We baptized thirty-nine last Sunday. Many of the students in the institute were converted and joined the Church. Among the additions to the Church by baptism were a number of the most prominent men in the town. Brother Smith can have a good meeting anywhere if the Church members will only stand by him."

H. H. HIBBS,

*Pastor of First Baptist Church.*

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## GAINSVILLE, TEXAS.

"Rev. W. W. Smith, of Pulaski, Virginia, has closed a three-weeks' meeting with us. Eternity alone can reveal the results. I have never seen such a worker. He is also the most earnest, intense preacher I have ever known. He attacks sin in every quarter. He has aroused my people for deeper spiritual living and activity in soul-saving than I have ever seen before. Something



over a hundred souls have been saved. The revival has been felt over the whole city to some extent. Almost every Christian of whatever faith or order has felt its powerful influence. Brother Smith is one among the most fearless, humble and practical preachers we have heard since the days of Moody. We have heard no one who exalts God and Christ in man's salvation so much as he. He leaves the Arminian no ground upon which to stand; salvation by grace, through the blood of the Lamb, is his every theme. He is a man who knows, loves and walks with God. I will always honor him for his great work here."

A. B. INGRAM,  
*Pastor First Baptist Church.*

## The World is Growing Worse

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"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthoughtful, unholy,

"Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."

—2 Timothy, iii: 1-5,13.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

—2 Timothy, iii: 3-4.

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many.

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake. And then shall many be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”—Matthew, xxiv: 4-12.

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”—2 Thessalonians, ii: 3.

If there ever was an age in the history of the world when the man of sin is being revealed and the church is falling away from the truth of the Bible and its love for holy living has gone down to zero it is to-day. In the last fifty years the world has steadily gained its worldly grip on the Church and the Church has steadily lost its holy

faith in God and the Bible. As an old darky said sometime ago in the Valley of Virginia, "Cannot tell any more where the dividing line is between the Church and the world." Look at the spiritual state of the Church to-day; all kinds of worldliness carried on in them. The members of the church are just as eager as the outside world in driving hard bargains to make money. See how the churches are kept up financially. Worldly socials, ice-cream suppers, fairs, plays, and one-horse concerts. See the hired choirs, who, in many cases, make no profession of religion and are often sneering skeptics, go through a cold, artistic or operatic performance which is as much in harmony with spiritual worship as an opera or theatre. Hear these choirs on Sunday morning sing the preacher and his congregation to glory and then all through the week take part in all kinds of meanness. Look at the doctrinal state of the Church! Oh, how dreadful. Many of the ministers of this day do not believe the whole Bible. They just believe and preach what they think will suit their congregation, so they can make a living. If you should tell them that you believe in the miracles of the Son of God, and that God will still perform miracles through His children, when they have faith in Him, then you will see them sneer

and laugh as if they thought you had lost your mind.

The doctrine of earnest prayer is old-fashioned and no longer of any use to the Church. If you should get happy and give an old-fashioned shout in some of these fine city churches, they would have you put out, and on Monday brought before the court and fined for disturbance of public worship. I heard a bishop preach sometime ago, and he said, if any of the ministers had been preaching that the world was growing worse they ought to go to the mourners' bench and get religion. That any man that taught that the world was growing worse, preached a blasphemy and a lie. Men preach that the world is growing better to suit their hearers so they can get the dollars. But the Bible says if we seek to please men we cannot please God. I heard a doctor of divinity, of the University of Chicago, preach, and at the close of his sermon he said, "If there be a Christ the safe thing is to do right." Just think of men in the universities teaching others, for years, how to preach, and do not know themselves if there be a Christ. Conversion is taught by many ministers to be no longer necessary; also they believe and teach that there is no hell, and not much of a Heaven. They do not believe in revivals in which persons should get happy and shout as they did when

Jesus healed the ten lepers. They say that is all wild-fire and animal excitement and went out of date fifty years ago. This is the kind of revivals you see in the papers to-day:

Rev. Brown, D. D., just closed a very successful revival in which there has been some thirty or forty additions to our church, and the membership greatly revived. Dr. Brown's sermons were elegant and edifying and any church will do well to secure his services. We had preaching twice a day for two weeks and during the whole time there was no excitement in the revival.

Now, all such revivals as I have described, from the teaching of the Bible, have their origin in hell. What if Jesus had been preaching for this church when the ten lepers were cleansed. "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks; and he was a Samaritan." Also when Jesus said to the blind man, "Receive thy sight, and immediately he received his sight, and followed Him glorifying God, and all the people when they saw it, gave praise unto God." What if Peter, instead of Dr. Brown, had been preaching for this church and on his way to church had come in contact with the man

whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple, and as Peter looked on the lame man and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk, and he took him by the right hand and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he, leaping up, stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple walking and leaping, and praising God." What if Peter should be preaching for this church at another time, "And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Now, my dear reader, do you think there was no excitement in all this when the enemies of God were looking on and said, "These men are full of new wine." Paul said, "In the last days perilous times shall come, men shall be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." The Lord's Day is almost lost to the millions of the American people. In many parts of the United States it is the big day for baseball playing and betting, and when the world's series comes on the country goes wild and bets its millions on the Lord's Day

as well as any other day. It is also the big day for excursion trains and automobile riding. Men by the thousands are selling their homes to get automobiles in which to ride and sport on that day. That is the big slaughter day in which thousands are killed in their reckless riding. In many parts of the country the business class seem to know no day of rest. I have seen in California and all up and down the coast, all kinds of work, mowers, harvesters, carpenters, all at work on that day the same as any other day. This is getting to be the big day for the devil. He does more meanness on the Lord's Day than all the rest of the week. Paul also says that in the last day, "Men shall be disobedient to parents." Mark says, "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death." The daily papers are filled with children and parents killing each other, husbands and wives deceiving, betraying and killing each other. "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Matthew and John both tell how it will be with the Christian people in the last times in the end of the world. Matthew says, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My



Name's sake." John says, "These things have I spoken unto you that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues; yea the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." The world is now coming to where the conscience of men are so seared and corrupt that they can kill a man of God and think they did God's service. As Paul says, "Believe a lie and be damned." Covetousness is one of the awful sins that shall develop itself in the last days in the end of the world, and under its mighty wheels crush millions of the human race in blood and death. Nations, for the love of possession, are betraying and killing each other in all kinds of brutal ways. I believe the manufacture, sale and use of the automobiles is doing more to make idlers, paupers, cripples and thieves, and is causing more deaths and sorrow to this country than the wars of Europe. See how the automobile is used in office and bank robbing, for the love of the dollar is such as the world has never seen.

While I preached against drinking and selling whiskey for more than thirty-five years, yet I have thought that the automobile, the way it is being used, the cigarette and the moving picture shows are doing more to destroy the character and life of the people of America than the saloons

have ever done. The world has gone wild and crazy over the love of the dollar. The love of money is the rock in the sea of life upon which millions of the human race are wrecked and sink down to hell. Matthew says, "Many false prophets shall rise and deceive many." If you watch the newspapers and see what is being taught and preached in the pulpits these days you will see that false prophets are getting as thick as flies. A discussion was carried on last fall in New York, by the doctors of divinity, to show how many things found in the Bible would not harmonize with modern science and the thought of to-day, and that many things in the Bible were not true. To think after millions of the children of God have lived and died, testifying to the truth of the Blessed Book, yet in this late day, preachers will hop up in the pulpit, like grasshoppers, saying the Old Book will not do for this enlightened age. Look at the world to-day; what spread of error, what hatred of truth, what corruption of morals, what fraud and violence practiced on every side. The Bible tells of wars and rumors of wars, of nations in turmoil and deadly conflict, as we have seen in the last few years. The Bible also tells of widespread religious indifference, and the love of the things of this world, and so it would be in the end of the world

as it was before the flood. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." So the world will continue to grow worse and worse until the end. The old world with its awful load of sin is staggering and reeling, like an old drunkard, toward the end of the age. We know that these days are now far on in their course and by the scale of Divine and human measurement the end is near. So the next great predicted event in the future will be the coming of the Son of God in Glory.

We ought to read our meter in the light of God's Word and see if we are ready for His coming. We should always be ready and watching for His coming to hail Him with a shout. I heard Dr. Gordon, of Boston, once say that when he went away to some other city to preach for a few days, as he started his little children would say, "Papa, when will you be back?" He would say, "In a few days." The day they thought he would return they would say, "Mother dress us up just the very best you can, we are going down

to the train to meet Papa." And if he were not on that train they would come to the next, and when he came they would throw their arms around his neck and kiss him and say, "Dear Papa, we are so glad to see you." Now we should have our robes made white through His precious blood, and be watching and waiting every day to see Him coming with the holy angels in the skies for the saints of earth.

Some years ago I was a few hundred miles away from my family, preaching in a city, and one night I had a dream that I was walking down the street, and it was about ten o'clock in the morning, and all at once a strange darkness came over the earth, and men looking at each other said, "What does this mean; is this the last day and the end of the world?" And I looked and saw men rushing out of their stores, banks and places of business, and saying, "Great God, what does this mean?" Just then I looked at the sun and saw it fall back behind the eastern hills, flying all into atoms, making a rumbling noise, louder than thunder, and the earth shook and tottered. Then I heard men begin to scream and say, "This is the last day and what shall we do?" They fell on their knees and cried for mercy, looking as pale as death. As I looked at this dreadful sight I then wished my wife and son

were with me and we could all be changed in a moment and mount the heavens together. Just as I was thinking this I heard the sweetest music begin that I ever heard, and it seemed to fill all space. I then looked up and away through the blue sky I saw the heavens full of chariots coming toward earth and I began to shout and say, "The Blessed Saviour is coming." Just then I awoke, and said to myself, "Well, I think that is just the way I would do if He should come back to earth." Reader, what do you think you would do if He should come back to earth now? Are you ready? If not, lose no time until you get ready. A minister was preaching some years ago, up North, one night, about the coming of Christ. Two sisters were sitting in the congregation; one was saved, the other was lost. The one that was a Christian thought, while the minister was preaching, "If Christ should come, my sister is not ready and we would be separated, never to meet again." After the services closed that night, and they were on their way home, the sister that was saved would continue to think of her lost sister. When they got home that night and retired the sister kept on thinking, "If Christ should come sister is not ready," until about midnight, she arose and knelt in the dark room in prayer that her sister might get ready. After

awhile the unsaved sister awoke, and said, "Sister, where are you?" "I am here," she said, "praying that you might be saved." Then the sister went and knelt by her side and in a few minutes was converted. The next morning, as the sunlight came into their room, the sister that was converted in the night said, "Sister, if the Lord comes to-day we are both ready." What a sweet thought—both ready. Reader, are they all ready in your home? If not, plead with the Lord and them until they get saved, and then they will be ready to live or die for the Lord. The coming of the Lord is the bright morning star that tells of a brighter and better day that is coming on for the saints of God.

The Church has waited long  
Her absent Lord to see;  
And still in loneliness she waits,  
A friendless stranger she.  
Age after age has gone,  
Sun after sun has set,  
And still in weeds of widowhood,  
She weeps, a mourner yet.

We long to hear Thy voice.  
To see Thee face to face;  
To share Thy crown and glory then,  
As now we share Thy grace.  
Should not the loving Bride  
The absent Bridegroom mourn?  
Until her Lord's return?

The whole creation groans  
And waits to hear Thy voice,  
That shall restore her comeliness  
And make her wastes rejoice.  
Come, Lord, and wipe away  
The curse, the sin, the stain:  
Come, make this blighted world of ours  
Thine own fair world again!



MRS. W. W. SMITH  
1907





## Who Can Pray?

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“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”—John xv: 7.

Now, I will take three verses of Scripture which will take in all the people in the world, but only one out of the three can make a prayer that God can answer. There are two classes of sinners in the Bible; one saved from the curse of the law by the blood of Jesus Christ, the other, a lost sinner under the law. Now, God cannot hear and answer the prayer of the lost sinner. “The Lord is far from the wicked but He heareth the prayer of the righteous. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. And when ye spread forth your hands I will hide Mine eyes from you, yea, when ye make many prayers I will not hear, your hands are full of blood. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer, they shall seek Me early but they shall not find Me.” “Now, we know that God heareth not sinners, but if any man be a

worshipper of God and doeth His will, him He heareth. So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." "And you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins."

Now, the unsaved man is dead to spiritual things and can no more pray or worship God than a dead man in his grave can see, hear, or get out of his grave and walk and talk with men. The lost sinner cannot, from the teaching of the Bible, call Jesus Lord. "That no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost," so he cannot call God Father, for the Scripture says, "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." When Christ was here on this earth, He taught the children of God to begin prayer in this manner: "Our Father which art in Heaven," so, if the lost sinner should pray to his father he would begin by saying, "Our father which art in hell." Many sinners are just like the preacher and the bear; when they get into meanness they say, "Devil, if you do not help me, don't help that other fellow." Some one may say, "How is the sinner to be saved if he cannot pray?" Just like God told

him to be saved. "Come, now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." The sinner has a mind by which he wills to accept or reject Christ. The Bible says, "And ye will not come to Me that ye might have life." When the sinner wills to take Christ then Jesus gives him eternal life and he has been born into the spiritual world and has the Spirit by which he can call God Father and can talk into Heaven through Jesus Christ. "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." So the sinner can get no message to God until he takes Christ. Sinner, just believe on Christ and that moment He will give you a home in Heaven.

When a boy, in my father's home, I thought one night, if I were to die I could not go to

Heaven; the next thought I said, yes, I will trust Him, and then I leaped for joy, because my sins were gone, and I was a child of God. Now, I will take up the class of saved people who cannot get an answer to prayer. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." What David said to himself is true of all other Christians. Sonship and communion with God are two things; one we can lose, the other we cannot lose. See that little girl out in the yard, walking and talking with her father? He shows her some beautiful flower and tells her not to break it off; he goes into the house and leaves his daughter in the yard and she breaks off the very flower which he told her not to break, then she comes into the house and he hears her sobbing in the next room. He calls her to know what is wrong, then she comes to where he is and says, "Father, will you forgive me? I broke the flower you told me not to break." He says, yes, and kisses her, then all is right. She lost her sweet communion with her father by breaking the flower, but not her relation as a child. She is just as much his child when in the room sobbing as when out in the yard walking and talking in sweet communion, but the act of disobedience put a cloud between her and her father. Just

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as David said his sins gathered like a thick cloud between him and God.

One unconfessed act of disobedience on our part will shut the ear of God against our petition. When we were living at Penran, California, in 1894, we received a telegram from Hinton, West Virginia, to know if I would accept a call as pastor to the First Baptist Church. I went to the office to answer the telegram, when the operator said, "No message can cross the Rocky Mountains; every wire is broken down on the mountain by snow that has fallen eighteen feet deep and is still snowing." I came back and told my wife I did not get a message through to Hinton, but found out why the most of Christian people never get an answer to their prayers, because the wires are down between them and Heaven. How many different kinds of sin get between Christians and God that keep their prayers from being answered! When I was in Russell County, Virginia, holding a revival, the church in which I was preaching did not have a leading member that would lead in prayer in public. I preached a sermon on the subject of prayer and showed it was public opinion that kept them from praying, and that was sin, for the Bible says if we seek to please men we shall not be the servant of Christ, and if they were afraid

to pray for fear men and women would talk and make remarks about their prayer, then they cared more for public opinion than for God, and that was sin, and God could not answer their prayers. This is the way hundreds of Christians are living; they say they will pray in secret for their children and neighbors to be converted, but not in church where they will be heard by the public audience. Now this class of Christians can continue to pray in secret for a lifetime but will get no answer to their prayer.

At the close of my sermon that morning I asked one of the deacons to lead us in prayer. He began something like this: "O Lord, when I was on the battle-field, some thirty years ago, and saw my neighbor on the field in a gore of blood, I then lifted my heart in prayer and said if God should spare my life to get back home I would start a family altar with my wife and little children, but, Lord, I have not done so, but by Thy grace, will begin to-day." Just as he closed his prayer another deacon who had been with him in the war made almost the same prayer about what he had promised the Lord, but had failed, but would settle the matter now. When we rose from prayer the children of these fathers ran across the house and said, "Father, bless God, I am saved, but I never heard you pray before."

You see, as soon as they got right with God the answer came at once and their children were converted.

Now, dear reader, let us stop and think a little and see if anything is on the wire between us and God; if so, no answer to any of our prayers. If there is any sin of omission or commission in our life that we do not confess and make right with God we cannot get any prayer answered. If there is anything that is constantly coming up in our moments of close communion with God, that is the thing that hinders prayer—put it away. Now, we come to the third class; they can pray and get an answer to their prayers. “If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” I doubt if there is one Christian out of a hundred living so that they could get an answer to their prayers: that is why the most of revivals are a failure. Now, in order that we may know that our prayers will be answered, the first thing is, we must know we have been born again, and the next thing, that we are willing to give up anything that the Spirit of God may show us is wrong in our life, and take up any cross and go where the Spirit would teach us to go in the Lord’s work, then the Spirit can pray through us and it will ask for nothing but what is God’s will, and when



the Spirit in us asks for what is God's will, then God must give the thing for which we ask. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." "And this is the confidence that we have in Him that if we ask anything according to His will He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." What is it that has made men pray all night and hundreds of souls were converted? It was the earnestness of the Spirit in them. "Now, He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit."

If people would be in earnest now and pray all night in revivals, as they did in the revivals of Charles Finney, they would still see sinners saved by the thousand, and churches revived from this worldliness. God has a great treasury in heaven, which contains everything necessary for our good and happiness. Prayer is the key that unlocks this storehouse of good things. God puts this

key in the hands of His children, and allows them to use it for themselves. As the hymn says:

“Prayer makes the darkest cloud withdraw;  
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;  
Gives exercise to faith and love,  
Brings every blessing from above.”

The prayer of Abraham would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah from being burned up if ten good people had been found there. The prayer of Moses saved the whole nation of Israel from destruction. The prayer of Elijah brought rain on the land when there had been none for three years and six months. The prayer of the saints one night opened the door and let Peter out of prison. See how God answers the prayer of some of His people to-day. Evangelist Graves was preaching up North, some years ago, when, at the close of a service, he told those who would do so to take some one by name for whom they would pray, and numbers said they would pray for some friend or relative. When the audience was dismissed a servant girl of a very wealthy lady came forward and said, “Mr. Graves, you did not give me any one to pray for.” He said to her, “Is your mistress converted?” “No, sir,” she replied. “Well, will you pray for her conversion?” The girl said she would, and went home that night and began praying for her

mistress to be converted. About three o'clock in the morning the lady awoke her husband and told him she was troubled about her soul and would like to have some one tell her how to be saved. He told her to wait until daylight, and he went back to sleep. About four o'clock she awoke him again and told him she must have some Christian to tell her how to be saved, that she felt like she might be in hell before daylight. Then he asked her if the servant girl was not a Christian. She said, "Yes." "Well," said her husband, "get up and dress and we will go to her room and she can tell you how to be saved." They went across the hall to the room where she mostly slept but the girl was not there. "Where is the girl?" said the husband. The wife replied, "Upstairs, I suppose, as she goes up there sometimes." They went upstairs to her room, as they got near the door it was standing a little ajar and they heard her in great agony of prayer, saying, "Lord, save my dear mistress, I want her to live with me in Heaven." The husband said, "That tells what brought your trouble so you could not sleep." They entered the room where the girl was praying and soon the wife was saved and praising the Lord. Then they asked the girl how long she had been praying; she told them from about nine o'clock till that time. If a girl can

pray all night for the conversion of her mistress, fathers and mothers ought not to think it too much if it takes this to get their children saved. Whitfield once preached on the fair-ground at London and had a few souls saved, then went back to his room and spent all night in prayer; the next day he went back to the fair-ground and preached again, that day something like a thousand souls were converted. That night of agony in prayer started a good breeze from Heaven toward the fair-ground. We see in the Bible where Christ "Went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night."

Oh, that ministers and churches would get into more of this agony of prayer, then we would see souls saved by the thousand and a work done that would tell in eternity.

## Men and Religion To-day and Fifty Years Ago

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“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”—Proverbs iv: 23.

What men and women continue to see and hear, as they grow up, will fix visions on their memory from which comes the development of their character in after life. Hear a bell ringing, way off in the distance, some bright spring morning, and it will fix the sound in your mind so that you will hear it long years afterward. When I was a boy we lived six miles from Wytheville, Virginia, and I will never forget how those church bells affected me on Sunday morning. We could just hear them on a bright clear morning, and as I would hear them ringing it would always make me think of God and Heaven. It was in 1886, at Northfield, Mass., that I first heard Ira D. Sankey, the great evangelistic singer, as he sang:

My Father is rich in houses and land,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hand.  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full; He has riches untold.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care?  
They're building a palace for me o'er there;  
Tho' exiled from home, yet still I may sing  
All Glory to God, I'm the child of a King.

As I heard him sing this song it seemed to me I could see and hear things a thousand years in the eternity to come. And I thought if the music in Heaven is no sweeter than that and the only way to get there was to girdle the globe on my knees, I would start to go around the world. Some things you have seen and heard in life will linger in your memory for years. Some young men were going out from a little village in the old country, one Sunday morning, to gamble. After they had gone three or four miles, all at once one of them said, "What is that we hear?" One said, "A church bell." At that one of the young men looked at his watch and said, "Nine o'clock; I must go back. When I left home, as my mother kissed me good-by, she said, 'Son, remember every Sunday morning at nine o'clock I will be praying for you that you will be a good boy.' So I can go no further." The other young men laughed, but he said good-by. So the sound of that church bell on the Lord's Day turned the young man's mind and his path toward his mother and her God. I know when I first saw the plains of California all blooming with California poppies, and then lifted my eyes and

looked up into the heavens in the distance and saw the snow-capped mountain peaks shining like great masses of silver, which seemed to kiss the Creator and Builder of the universe, it made me think, as never before in life, what a wonderful God we have to make such a world as this in which we live. If you wish to have sublime thoughts of God, that will elevate and bring you nearer to Him, go out some bright spring morning and climb to some high mountain peak ; look out in the distance and see verdant hills, shady groves, sparkling streams, meandering rivers and purple mountains, all arrayed in their splendor like the robes of morning, when curling mists cover the mountain top, and sapphire clouds build a throne for the sun. Go out again on a clear night, and look on the starry heavens and think of old Daniel, the prophet, when he said, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever." As you look on these stars away off in the heavens, glittering, shining and sparkling, which look like camp fires built in the heavens to guide the weary traveler over the earth, it is then that you feel like joining in with David when, on the very summit of his glory, he sang, "Praise ye the Lord, Praise Him all ye stars of light.

What we see and hear has much to do with our character in life. When we continue to look on good and beautiful sights it fills our mind with good thoughts but if we continue to look on ugly and wicked things, it fills our minds with evil thoughts. Fifty years ago the most of men and women grew up on farms, as there were not so many large towns and cities as now. Many of the women worked outdoors on the farm the same as men, helping to plant corn and work with flax from which their clothes were made. Sometimes it would happen that a young man would find his sweetheart in corn-planting time, and begin his first courtship. Young people courted a little different in those days to what they do at the present time. They would chat in the parlor, take a stroll through the old fields or along by some stream or woods in search of flowers, at other times a boat or buggy ride. Sometimes a stroll in the moon-light when they would talk, and tell that their love would be as true and lasting to each other as the moon and the stars had been to each other all these thousands of years. In the most cases it would be true, as you seldom ever heard of divorces as we have to-day. I saw last summer, in the Roanoke Times or the Lynchburg News, where there were fifty-four marriage licenses issued in Norfolk, in the month of July,



and in the same month fifty-one suits for divorce were entered in the court. Now, if this be an average of the country, things are getting into a bad shape with regard to marriage. If a young man lived fifteen or twenty miles away from his sweetheart in those days it would take him half the day to get to her place, as they would go in a buggy, on horseback or on foot. Now, if his girl is that far away and he starts to see her he is right there now, as the old ducky said when some one asked him how far to a certain town, "Well," said the ducky, "boss, it is only the way you go; if a-foot, one hundred miles, if on horseback, fifty, and if on the train, right there now." So if a young man starts to see his sweetheart in an automobile and it is fifty miles to her place, he is right there now. See how young people court now; use the telephone, automobile riding, dance hall, card tables, ice-cream parlors, with soft drinks and cigarettes, gonig to theatres and moving picture shows. In these moving picture shows they see illustrated house-burning, bank-robbing, killing, courtships and runaway couples. As they leave these places at night their brain is in a whirl of excitement all night long, dreaming of these sights, until next day, and then often think, "I would like to follow the same kind of a life I saw illustrated in the moving picture show."

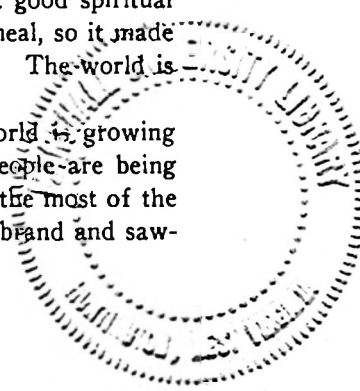
So many matches made through this kind of courting are not married but a few months until they sue for a divorce.

See the ministers of this day and fifty years ago. Many of the ministers to-day are man-made and man-called preachers, and they get their call from the love of the dollar instead of a love for Christ and souls as I have illustrated in the sermon, *Christ, Our Substitute*. To be a minister to-day is an easy way to make a living for men who do not like anything that looks like work. It is also an honorable calling as men are paid a salary anywhere from a thousand to ten thousand dollars. A young man, to be a minister to-day, must go to the university and be taught by some old professor how to read a little essay and how to make some elegant gestures and look nice and primpy in the pulpit. On Sunday morning he comes before his congregation with his essay elegantly prepared, in beautiful language, but no hell and not much of a Heaven, but he reads his essay and makes his gestures gracefully, as he was taught at the university, just like a parrot says, "Polly wants a cracker." The Christian people who go there expecting to get some spiritual food come away empty and disappointed saying, "If that is all we can hear I do not know when I will go to church again." This is just

like seeing a dog that finds an old dry bone in some back yard, seizes it in his mouth, walks off proudly, growling and snapping at every other dog he meets, as if he had a fine piece of meat. So the preacher goes to the pulpit with his shell of a sermon and reads and gesticulates and makes signs as if he had the very marrow of the Gospel. Spurgeon said, "Men that read their sermons in the pulpit are dumb dogs and cannot bark." This is not the kind of preachers we had fifty years ago. At that time their salaries were so small that many of them had to do some other kind of work to supplement their salaries so as to be able to take care of their families. They would prepare their sermons through the week by reading the Bible and other good books, sometimes studying a sermon while holding the plow handles, or going to mill, or out in the woods where he could hear the birds singing around him, or looking away in the distance at some mountain peak, lost in the heavens, or, at other times, looking at the fleecy clouds that floated in the blue sky as if riding on angels' wings. Then again watching an awful storm coming, the lightning flashing on the dark bosom of the cloud and the thunder rolling and shaking the earth. They studied God in nature as well as the God of the Bible. A minister at that time

would spend much time in prayer through the week in some old barn or out in the woods. When he came before his congregation on the Lord's Day he preached Heaven and hell, and the Son of God dying on the cross, as if it were all a real fact, until great drops of perspiration stood out on his face and the tears rolled down his cheeks and his collar wilted down around his neck. All this time the congregation was backing him with their amens, and soon you would hear some old sister over to his right begin to shout and some old deacon begin to cry out aloud "Glory to God and the Lamb, the Lord has come!" By this time a few sinners would be convinced and converted. When the service was over the people had been so well fed, spiritually, that the sister who shouted would come up and say, "Brother Jones, you preached so well go home with us for dinner, we have chicken, and you know preachers like chicken." So the preacher gave the congregation a good spiritual meal and they gave him a good meal, so it made a good and happy day all around. The world is starving for truth.

One great reason why the world is growing worse is the kind of food the people are being fed to-day. If you go to church the most of the ministers will feed you on chaff, brand and saw-



dust; if to a theatre or moving picture show, something to corrupt or poison the mind. If you pick up a daily paper to read, you see page after page filled with robbing and killing of the most brutal kind. Seeing and hearing so much of the dark side of the human race will make people corrupt and wicked. The great preachers and statesmen of the country seldom ever come from the large towns and cities. The most of the presidents of the United States have come from farms or little villages. Go to-day to New York or Chicago, and ask any of the great preachers where they are from and they will tell you, from some little village or farm somewhere in the country. Men in the large cities are cut off too much from God by worldly business and excitement. There is too much noise of automobiles and street cars around and over head, high buildings, and smoke which hangs over the city, shutting out the sunlight, moon and stars. Some people in these large cities hardly know there is such a thing as a moon or a star. Continual looking up against high walls of stone and brick, and seeing all this wild rush and excitement after the dollar, make men near-sighted and dwarfs their spiritual and religious life. A preacher, or any other man, to become a great man of God, must at times get away from the business excitement and get out

in the hills and mountains alone, and there talk and commune with God. Old Elijah, who did the greatest miracles of any man in the Old Testament, learned his great lessons of God in the cave, the mountain and the wilderness. Daniel learned more of God in a little time in the den of lions, than a student would learn in a thousand years in one of these universities, taught by some old professor of theology.

The most of the churches to-day are following human leaders who have only a human message for the people and not much of the old-time religion of fifty years ago, when men and women got happy and praised the Lord in the house of God. If I had to raise a family to-day, instead of having the moving picture show, the radio and automobile riding to entertain the young, give me back the old-time way of living fifty years ago, when the young people worked out on the farm and the children went to school, came home and studied their lessons by pine knots or old-time tallow candles for awhile, then ate apples and cracked nuts until time for family worship. After prayer retired repeating the words of the Psalmist, "I will both lay me down in peace and sleep, for thou Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." I would rather go to Heaven ignorant of many of the new inventions and things of to-day

than to know all of them and get all the pleasures they can afford and go to hell through it all. Reader, if you be a parent look after the character and souls of your children. These are awful days in which we are living; the devil has his traps set in a thousand ways in which to entice and trap them to-day. Take the Bible and read it and follow its teachings, set up an old-time family altar, and pray for your loved ones, that they all may be saved, for the souls of our loved ones are worth more than the world and all that is in it. Make your home just as near like Heaven as you can by the grace of God. My wife said to me one day, "No one can be better than you are." I said, "Well, I am going to live in Heaven and I want to make my home as much like Heaven as I can." Reader, by good deeds, kind words and smiles try to make all cheerful and happy. Drive every cloud of gloom from the home and make it glow with sunshine, like the old sun when he climbs the eastern sky sending his light down into the lowest valley and then up to the loftiest mountain peak, until all the world is in a blaze of light, and all nature wakes to life and the birds make the air ring with their sweet songs.

## Christ, Our Redeemer

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“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”—Titus ii: 14.

There was a German artist who spent years of labor and immense sums of money on a painting, and then after these years of toil and money spent on the picture, he gave it away. When asked why he gave the painting away instead of selling it, when he had spent so many years of labor and so much money, he said that he considered it beyond all price, that there was not anything in the world its equal in value, so he gave it away. This is one reason why Jesus gives away salvation, because it is beyond all price, not anything in the universe is its equal in value. The earth, the heavens, the stars, and all the planets which track and trace each other through immensity of space, and some, it may be, so far away that their light has never gotten here since the creation, and yet we cannot find in the Bible that it ever cost Christ a sigh or a pain to make them all. But to redeem the lost soul He had



to leave Heaven, where He was worshiped by angels and saints and come to this dark, sin-cursed earth, and on the cross pour out His heart's blood. Now, if we owned the whole world and it was one solid mass of gold, we could not purchase one soul, because the world would not be equal in value to one soul. So Christ gives away His salvation to poor lost souls. He gave Himself for us and now we must give ourselves to Him or we can never be saved. We must give ourselves, our ways, and all the interest and claims we have in this world in any way before He can receive us. How many sins get such a hold on people that they just hold to them and let Christ go until they are lost in hell. The love of money is the great rock in the sea of life upon which millions of souls are being lost in this age. But sinner it makes no difference what your sin is, or how many they are, or how black may be the crime, yet Jesus will take you just as you are, as the words of a hymn thus expresses:

“Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God I come.”

Some men say they are too great a sinner to be saved, that they are guilty of the terrible sin of blasphemy and that they even curse their own

family. Another will say he is an awful drunkard; another, he has killed some one and how is he to be saved? All men and women have some besetting sin they are not willing to give up, and satan holds them with that sin. He holds some by the power of strong drink, others by their temper, and some by the love of money. The devil does not care what sin he leads you to hell with, just so he gets you there in the end. Now, sinner, you cannot redeem yourself from any of these sins, not even the least you have ever committed, for satan has you bound in chains of slavery, but take Christ and he will redeem you and deliver you from all sin and make you free. "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." Now, to illustrate this verse: A father was going, one day, to teach his little daughter a lesson of faith and trust in Christ. She did some naughty deed and the father got a rope and tied a knot in the end and then called her to him and said, "Daughter, did you do this wicked act?" and she said, "Yes." "Well," he said, "I will have to hit you fifty strokes across the back to pay for the deed." Then she looked at the rope and then at her father, and said, "Father, fifty strokes from that rope across the

back would kill me." Then the father said, "Daughter, if brother, who is larger than you, should take your place and let me lay the stripes on his back instead of yours, what would you do?" "Oh, Father, I would love him with all my heart as long as I would live." In this you see that the innocent brother took the guilty sister's place and bore the strokes and made her free. So Christ, the innocent one, took the guilty sinner's place on the cross and by our guilty stripes being laid on Him, He made us free.

Years ago, a striking incident is said to have occurred in the city of Paris. In a back street of that city a fire broke out at night. It was in a narrow court, in which the houses were built so that the higher stories overhung the lower considerably, and the upper stories sometimes almost touched. In the lone hours of the night, a father, sleeping with his children, was suddenly awakened by the smoke filling the room. In a moment he jumped out of bed. With one strong blow he swept away the framework of the window of his bedroom and the next moment he was safe across to the other side of the street through the window of the opposite house. He was safe but he had forgotten his children. He then heard the sound of their voices and saw their terrified faces looking at him through the

flames. Now what could he do? Without a moment's hesitation, he jumped back again and placing his foot firmly against the window sill of the house where he was he launched his body forward and grasped the window of the burning house, thus making himself a bridge between the two houses, then shouting to his eldest boy, he bade him come and crawl over his body to the other side; the boy did so and was saved. Then a second child and a third followed tremblingly; the fourth, a little boy, then came, almost too timid but he dared, after a moment's hesitation, to make the effort. But as the little fellow was passing he heard his father cry, "Quick! Quick! I cannot hold out much longer." He heard the voice of the crowd below assure him of the safety of his last child, and then the hold of the strong man upon the burning house relaxed. There was a heavy crash and he fell a lifeless corpse. This is a faint illustration of the salvation that comes to us poor, helpless sinners through Him who bridged the chasm over hell so we could pass from earth to Heaven though it cost His precious life. We read in the Bible that the Jews had what they called the year of jubilee every fifty years. "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof; it shall be a jubilee

unto you, and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family." Now, the year of jubilee to the Jews was a year of redemption, of rest, and of great joy. When the first day of the year of jubilee came in the trumpets were blown all through the land. When the sound of those trumpets was heard the people knew that the year of jubilee had come. Then the man who had been in prison for debt or crime for years was turned out to go home to his family. Men who had been sold as slaves were set at liberty, and men who had lost their homes by debt got them back again. It was to be a year of rest, "Behold, ye shall not sow nor gather in your increase." The year of jubilee was also to be a year of triumphant joy in the land. How the poor mother's heart would thrill with joy the day she heard the sound of the trumpets, for she knew that her son who had been sold as a slave was set at liberty and on his way home. The wife was looking for her husband that day to come home from prison and live with her and the children again. The man who had lost his home by sickness and debt got the old home back that day. It was a time of great joy through the land, when the year of jubilee came and they heard the sound of the trumpet. So when the

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sinner takes Christ it will be a time of redemption, rest, and of joy to his soul. "Who hath delivered us from the powers of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

When we have taken Christ, who has suffered for our sins and upon Him the gathered tempest has spent itself, then not a single cloud lingers in the serene sky for us. Though the bills for sin may come, He has paid them all, and there is not a single account to be brought against the soul who has taken Jesus for his substitute. When the sinner receives Christ he will find rest to his soul. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The sinner will also find it a time of triumphant joy to his soul when he takes Christ as his Saviour. The night I was converted I went out and looked on the heavens and the stars seemed to be shouting God's praise. The next morning when the sun rose, the hills and mountains seemed to be leaping for joy and the blue sky bent like God in love for all things.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” A faithful clergyman used sometimes to dine with a Christian friend between the morning and afternoon services on Sunday, and took the opportunity of speaking to the family upon the sermon he had just preached. One day he asked a little boy what the morning text had been. The boy replied, “Jesus is precious.” “And what do you mean by precious?” The dear little boy was silent for a few moments, then hiding his face in his mother’s lap he replied, “Mother is precious, we could not do without her.” “Well answered, my boy,” replied the aged minister. “Never forget that ‘Jesus is precious, we could not do without Him.’” A man was once trying to make his way to the base of the Rocky Mountains through the deep snow, but after hours of travel and fatigue, and the snow still got deeper and the mountain seemed so far away, he just gave up at last to die in the deep snow, but as he moved his feet where he was standing, he found some dry sticks, then found he had but one match, but that set the wood on fire and saved his life. All through life as he heard the word, match, he would say, “Precious match saved my

life." To those of us who are on our way to Heaven, Oh, how precious is the blood of Jesus that saved our souls!

"Take the name of Jesus with you,  
Child of sorrow and of woe;  
It will joy and comfort give you,  
Take it then where'er you go.

*Chorus*

"Precious name, O how sweet!  
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven,  
Precious name, O how sweet!  
Hope of earth and joy of Heaven.

"O the precious name of Jesus,  
How it thrills our souls with joy,  
When His loving arms receive us,  
And His songs our tongues employ.

"At the name of Jesus bowing,  
Falling prostrate at His feet,  
King of kings in He've'n we'll crown Him,  
When our journey is complete."

When we know that our sins have been removed "as far as the east is from the west" by His precious blood and will be remembered no more, it then takes away the fear and dread of death. A father and his little child were coming home one evening. It was dark when they came to the bank of the river. Far away on the opposite shore they could see the lights in the city where they were going. As they stood on the bank waiting they heard the sound of the oars of the ferry boat coming and soon they were in the boat



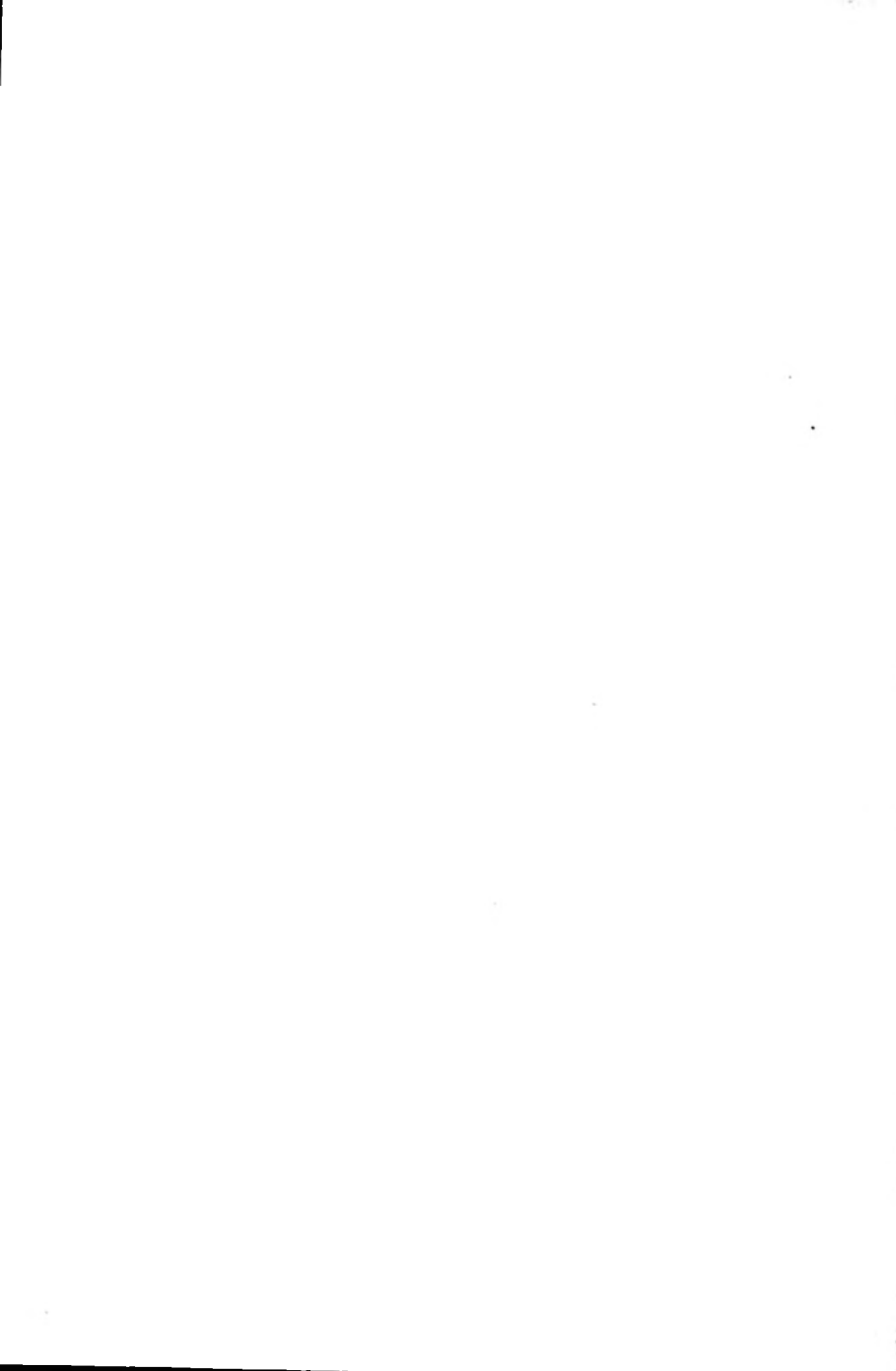
going toward the other side, when the little child cried, "Father, Father, it is so dark, and I cannot see where we are going." The father answered, "My child, the ferryman knows the way and we will soon be over the river." In a few minutes they were across, the child safe in the arms of the father and all fear and dread were gone. Some time after that the little child was on the bank of another river, that was the River of Death, when she said, "Father, I have come to another great river." "Yes, dear child, is it dark like the other river?" "Oh, no," she said, "there is no darkness here, the waves of the river glitter like silver and the boat that is coming for me is so bright and I have no fears of the ferryman." "Can you see over the river, my dear child?" "Yes, I see a beautiful city on the other shore, all shining with light." "Do you see any one on the other side?" "Yes, dear Father, I see many in robes of white waiting for the coming of the boat, and I see Jesus, who beckons to me and says, 'Come.' I am landing sweetly on the other shore, dear Father."

"Brightest and best of that glorious throng,  
Center of all and the theme of their song,  
Jesus, our Saviour, the pierced one stands,  
Lovingly calling with beckoning hands."

David, when he wrote the twenty-third Psalm, must have seen away across the River of Death



C. O. CROSS  
M<sup>v</sup> Singer  
Born in Cardiff, Wales



and saw the lights shining in the harbor of Heaven when he said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

"There will be no dark valley when Jesus comes,  
To gather His loved ones home."

## Christ, Our Substitute

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“Christ died for our sins.”—I Cor. xv: 3.

This is a short text, yet it is the channel through which all blessings flow to this lost and ruined world. As the ships that come from all parts of the world enter San Francisco, by the way of the Golden Gate, so all the ships that ever come from Heaven laden with blessings to this world of ours come by way of the cross of Calvary. Christ dying for our sins is the fountain-head of all Gospel. Oh! the richness of these mines! A man, some years ago, in California, sank a shaft into a gold mine and got out ten thousand dollars' worth of coin, then he sank his shaft again five feet deeper and got out fifty thousand dollars' worth of coin; the deeper he went the richer the mine. So, by the Holy Ghost, we can sink shaft after shaft into the mine of Calvary and the deeper we go the richer diamonds of God's grace we find. We may go on through all eternity still finding richer things about the cross of Christ. Mount Shasta, the king of mountains, on the western slope, lifts its snow-capped head high into the heavens, glitter-

ing like a great mass of silver, leaning against the blue sky, looking down on all the other mountains along the coast. Just so Mount Calvary, the king of all mountains, lifts its head, red with the blood of Christ, high in the sunlight of Heaven, looking down on all the other mountains of grace. No saint has ever scaled the summit of this mountain. The cross of Christ is thus expressed by some one in these beautiful lines:

"It is a land in which there are heights,  
That the strongest delight to climb;  
Yet there are shady groves,  
In which the feeblest may recline.

"It is an ocean of truth in which there are depths,  
That the strongest archangel cannot fathom;  
Yet there are calm and unruffled inlets,  
In which the little child can bathe."

If all the saints of Heaven were an audience and eternity a day and the throne of God a pulpit Jesus alone would be my theme.

Yet how often we hear the story of the cross and it seems to have no effect on the people, and then tell of some little child dying in the town and see how the people will weep. They say that they did not see Him dying is the reason why they do not feel like weeping. That mother never saw her son die on the battle-field, but when the younger brother came home and said, "Mother, I left brother in a certain battle where

ten thousand were killed, and after the smoke began to die away I went to where my brother was and there he was lying, and the blood flowing from his side, and he turned in his blood and groaned and said, 'Brother, I will never see Mother again in this world. If you live to see her, tell her I loved her till the last and tell her that when she comes to Heaven, I will meet her at the beautiful gate above blood-stained battle-fields.' And then he said, 'Brother, I will soon be in glory, tell dear Mother good-by,' and he fell asleep." Now as long as that mother lives, when she hears any one mention that battle, the tears will come and her heart will go out after that boy that she loved dearer than her own life. Now may the Spirit of God take us in our imagination back to Jerusalem and there see and hear the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ until our hearts melt into tears and we love Him more in seeing Him die for us. See Christ with His disciples in the guest chamber, a large upper room, furnished for the passover. "And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them, and they made ready the passover." And Jesus "sat down with the twelve." And as they did eat He said, "Verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me. And they were exceeding sorrowful and began every one of them to say

unto Him, Lord is it I? And He answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish the same shall betray Me. And when He had dipped the sop He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon, and after the sop satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, that thou doest do quickly. He then, having received the sop, went immediately out and it was night." Now while Judas was out selling the Lord for thirty pieces of silver, Jesus and His disciples were communing together for the last time this side of the bloody cross. "Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take eat, this is my body. And He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn Jesus went out into the Mount of Olives and His disciples also followed Him. And when He was at the place He said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast and kneeled down and prayed, saying, Father if Thou be willing remove this cup from Me, never-



theless, not My will but Thine be done. And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when He rose up from prayer and was coming to His disciples He found them sleeping for sorrow. And said unto them, Why sleep ye? Rise and pray lest ye enter into temptation. And while He yet spake, behold a multitude and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near unto Jesus to kiss Him." Just to think that Judas got so near Christ in his life as to kiss that lovely face and then go straight to hell; was in hell before the One he had sold for thirty pieces of silver was crucified. But as Baxter says in his *Saint's Rest*, the way to hell is right by the gate of Heaven. The Sunday School teacher who never gave his life to Christ but thinks his good deeds will save him, and is all his life a leader in the Church, yet dies and goes to hell. The deacon, who for the love of money, drives hard bargains and takes the Church for a cloak to deceive the people will never know any more of Heaven when he leaves this world than he knew here. There are preachers who have had their calls from one church to another and received their thousands, yet I have seen them driven from their pulpits on account of licentious-

ness, and die in disgrace and shame. They get their calls from the love of money and not for the love of Christ and souls. They are like the old colored preacher who rose in his pulpit one Sunday morning and told his congregation he had very sad news for them, that he had a call from God to take another church. Just at that time a brother back in the house rose and said, "Will you please tell me how much more money?" The preacher said, "Three hundred dollars." "Well," said the brother, "that is a raise instead of a call." So many of the preachers go by a raise these days instead of a call from God. And when they die God will then say, "You traitor, go down, down where you can never buy a drop of water with the money you made selling Me." The Bible tells us what kind of men they are. "But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming and leaveth the sheep and fleeth and the wolf catcheth them and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth because he is an hireling and careth not for the sheep." This class of preachers scatter the sheep, but the devil has caught every one of them since he began with Judas, who sold the Lord that night for thirty pieces of silver. Then they took Jesus from the Mount of Olives, where He was in prayer and brought Him before Annas

and Caiaphas for trial. And see what treatment He received from them; from false witnesses they say, "He is guilty of death." "And the men that held Jesus mocked Him and smote Him. And when they had blindfolded Him they struck Him on the face and asked, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote Thee?" And as soon as it was day they take Him before Pilate and Herod and there they continue the trial until they order Him to be scourged and crucified. They scourged Him that morning. The Roman scourging was to bind a man's wrists together, strip his back bare and then lash him with a scourge made by taking sharp pieces of steel and braiding them into a lash. As far as we know, this was the kind of scourge used upon the Son of God, blow after blow cutting through the flesh, clear to the bone. How sad to think that our sins caused those stripes to be laid upon the back of the Son of God. I do not see how a man's heart can be so hard as to hear how Christ was wounded for our transgressions and yet not love Him. And then they took Jesus and led Him away with two thieves to crucify them. See the blessed Christ after He had spent such an awful night, and then going to be crucified, bearing His own cross, and followed by a mob crying, "Away with Him." See them drive the nails into those lovely hands,

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that would touch the eyes of the blind and they would see; touch the dead and they would come to life.

While Christ was hanging on the cross, He could look on the awful and wicked crowd, and see one there that struck Him in the face, in another place, one that spit in His face, another that struck Him over the head with a reed, another that stripped Him of His raiment, another that scourged Him, another that nailed Him to the cross. It was their blows that had torn and mangled His limbs and made His body red with blood, as He hung there in dreadful agony, bleeding and dying, it was then he cried: "Father, forgive them." Such love as that ought to melt the hardest heart that ever lived. Christ hung for three hours in awful darkness, and at the close of the three hours, when the sun came out on the earth again then He cried, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost. The sun hid his face in darkness for three hours while Christ was dying on the cross. Christ's death on the cross was something like an eclipse of the sun. When the moon comes between us and the sun it shuts off the light of the sun from our part of the earth and looks for a little while like it was going to destroy the sun, but soon the sun comes out as bright as ever.

Now the inhabitants on the opposite side of the earth never saw any eclipse, all that time the sun was shining on their part of earth.

When Christ cried on the cross, "It is finished," this world said, "He is dead and that is the last of Him. He once opened the eyes of the blind and raised the dead, but now Himself He cannot raise." And no doubt the devils and demons of hell shouted, "He is finished forever." But God and Heaven on the side where there was no sin could see that He had won in the battle on Calvary a great victory over sin and death for time and eternity. And could hear Him say, "I am He that liveth and was dead and behold I am alive forevermore, amen, and have the keys of hell and death." I think I could see them in Heaven at this time, making ready their chariots to come toward the blood-stained hills of Calvary to drive their Conqueror back through the blue sky by the fading stars to the glory which He had with His Father before the foundation of the world. Behold Him as the angels meet Him and

"Bring His chariot from on high,  
To bear Him to His throne;  
Clap their triumphant hands and cry,  
'The glorious work is done.'"

Our sins made an awful bloody link in the chain of His eternal existence. "Who His own

self bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed." In the time of Napoleon I, a certain man agreed to join the ranks in the place of a comrade who had been drafted. The offer was accepted. A battle took place and the man was shot. Some time after, another draft was made and they wanted a second time to take the man, whose substitute had been shot. But the man said, "No, you cannot take me, I am dead. I was shot at such a battle." "Why man," said they, "you are crazy! You got a man to go as your substitute and he was shot, but you have not been shot." "No, but he died in my place." They would not recognize it and the matter was carried up to the Emperor, and the Emperor said, "The man was right." So Napoleon recognized the great doctrine of substitution. "Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good work." When we know that Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, that He gave up His place in glory and came down here and took our place on the cross that we might sit with Him on His throne in glory, how willing we should be to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our

reasonable service. We should gladly forsake anything, take up any cross, go anywhere and do anything our Lord should wish.

I once heard of a girl who lived near New Orleans, whose parents were wealthy. The girl went off to college and came back a convert to Christ, and she would go through the rooms of the house singing, and at other times they would hear her in some room in prayer. The father was a great sinner and it made him angry to hear her in prayer. One day he heard her in prayer and he called her and said, "Daughter, I will give you but twenty-four hours to decide what you will do. You will have to quit this praying in my house or leave. I will come from the farm tomorrow morning at ten o'clock and meet you in the parlor and there, daughter, you can tell me what you will do." At ten o'clock the daughter was in the parlor, and when she heard the heavy steps of the father on the porch, she began to play and sing,

"Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee,  
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shall be."

The father said, "Daughter do you mean what you are singing, are you going to leave your home?" "Yes, father, by the grace of God I am

going this morning." "No, daughter, if you are willing to give up your home for the love you have for Christ you can stay and I will give my life to Him and go with you to Heaven."



## Let Your Light Shine

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“Ye are the light of the world.”—Matt. v: 14.

The sun is the source and fountain of light to our world. As the sun rises in the east and drives the dark shades of night from the earth, and goes on his journey across the heavens as the king of day until he goes down behind the western hills, then you can see the long streaks of fire burning and blazing far back across the sky, as if to say to the moon and stars, now let my light shine down on the dark landscape till I return, so Jesus, while here on the earth, going around raising the dead, making the lame to walk and opening the eyes of the blind, said, “I am the Light of the world.” But before He left the earth for Heaven, He said to those about Him, and to all believers, “Let My light shine on the dark, sin-cursed earth till I return from Heaven. And He led them out as far as to Bethany and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. And it came to pass while He blessed them, He was parted from them and carried up into Heaven. And while they looked steadfastly toward Heaven, as He went up, behold two men

stood by them in white apparel, which also said: Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner, as ye have seen Him go into Heaven." This is a blessed hope; the glorious coming of the Lord. The Old Testament saints looked forward to the first coming of Christ as the Sun of Righteousness that should light up this dark world with His coming, and after long years had passed away, faith was turned into sight. Men saw the Son of God here on the earth, walking and talking with men as we talk with each other. Mary sat at His feet. Peter pressed close to His side. John rested on His bosom. Paul, too, saw Him on his way to Damascus, and the sight of his Saviour was eternal life to him. The New Testament saints look forward to the second coming of Christ as the Bright Light and Morning Star from which all darkness and sin shall forever flee away. "The sun shall no more be thy light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee, but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light and thy God thy glory. The sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself, for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be

ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified."

The world may scoff as in the days of Noah, and the Church, even, may let go this holy faith, but by and by, at the appointed time, the Church and the world will see the Lord coming in power and great glory for righteous judgment.

See how often Christ, when here on earth, spoke of Himself as being the Light of the world, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. And the Light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness to bear witness of the Light that all men, through Him, might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the Light with you. Walk while ye have the Light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While

ye have light, believe in the Light, that ye may be the children of Light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide Himself from them." "I am come a Light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." "As Jesus passed by, He saw a blind man, which was blind from his birth, and His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, neither hath this man sinned nor his parents: but that the work of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the work of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." But now Christ is gone in person from the earth and left us to shine for Him. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." "Again a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him and in you because the darkness is past and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because the darkness hath blinded his eyes. But if ye walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. For ye were sometimes darkness but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light. Wherefore He saith awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light."

As Christ has given us light, we ought to let it shine on the path of others, to brighten their way across the dark earth to a home where there is no darkness nor sin. What if the sun that is the source of all light to our world should go down to rise no more? We would have no more blooming flowers, nor singing birds; their songs would die on the night air and the little streams would become solid ice. What an awful world we would have, nothing but a frozen mass of matter, rolling on in midnight darkness. Oh, how we would long to see the sun rise with its warm rays of light coming on the frozen earth. This is very much like the world without the light of Christ. The Bible tells us that darkness

covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. The Bible did not mean darkness in the outside world, which we see with our eyes, but the inside world to which our souls belong. In that world the people are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. That awful darkness is caused by sin that is between man and God. But Jesus came to the cross to die for man that He might blot out that dark cloud and let sunshine into his soul, so that man could read his title clear to a mansion beyond the sky. How many illustrations we see in the world about us to teach us the great lesson of shining for our Lord in this dark world. Some years ago, my wife and myself were going from Norfolk, Virginia, to New York by steamer; as night came on we could see away across the waters, ten or fifteen miles, the light-houses on the high cliffs of New Jersey. I said to my wife, "Look at that light-house, throwing its light far away over the deep waters, telling the pilot where to run his vessel in the dark night to keep from a wreck." So we shall hold up Christ, the light-house of the world, to keep some poor soul from being wrecked on the shores of eternity. Churches ought to let their light shine; like I saw when preaching in Moody's church in Chicago, in 1895; at the close of the sermon I could see men and women of wealth going all

through the congregation, to the very poorest, and telling them how glad they were to see them at church, and then persuade them to trust Christ and go to Heaven, where all will be rich. I said to my singer, "This is one church where Christians will go after sinners and plead with them to come to Christ." In the most of churches, to-day, a lost man might go into them for months and no one would ever say a word to him about his soul, or even speak to him if he were poorly dressed. At home is a good place for parents to let their light shine as they read the Bible, and talk and pray with their children. How many children have been lost because parents did not tell them at home how to get to heaven.

Some years ago, when preaching in the valley, near Waynesboro, Virginia, at the close of the service, a lady asked me to go home with her, as she had a very sad story she wished to tell me. As we sat at dinner, she told me she had a brother about nine years of age who asked his mother if he could not go forward in a revival and be saved, but his mother said no, he was too young. Two years after, he was on his dying bed, and just as he was dying, called his mother and told her she had damned his soul by telling him he was too young when nine years of age. Since that time he said all those convictions had

left him that he had about his soul and now he was lost. After her brother was dead she said her mother would go through the house day and night and cry out, "I damned my boy," until she was taken to the asylum at Staunton. And when you would go to the asylum there you could hear her still crying, "I damned my boy." How many parents have driven their children to hell and then remorse of conscience drives them to the asylum?

Children know more about God, the Bible and the way to Heaven than many parents think. I saw, some time ago, in the Washington Post, a beautiful illustration of a little girl's influence over her sister in bringing her to Christ. As the grown sister stood before the mirror, she placed a crown on her head, as she was fixing to go to a ball that night; the little sister, about six years old, stood behind watching her closely until the older sister asked her why she watched her so closely. The little sister told her she looked so pretty with that crown on her head, and that she was just thinking about what her teacher had told her in the Sunday School, that if she should lead a soul to Christ it would add a star to her crown in glory. Then the little sister said she would love to add a star to her crown in glory. That night the older sister went to the dance, but as she was in the dance she could still hear her



little sister saying, sweetly, "I would love to add a star to my crown in glory." This troubled her so that she asked those with whom she was dancing to excuse her, she must go home. On her way home, as she could hear the echo of her feet on the night air, still would come in memory the words of her little sister, "add a star to my crown in glory." When she got home and entered the room she found her little sister asleep; then conviction came to her greater than at the dance and there she gave herself to the Lord. Then she went to bed where her little sister was sleeping quietly and kissed her and said to the Lord, "To-night a star has been added to my little sister's crown." Thousands of parents and grown brothers and sisters in the homes have been brought to Christ by little boys and girls. So we ought to think, when we talk with them, that we can make impressions on their minds that will make them shine in the Heavenly world long after the stars have ceased to shine in the heavenly firmament.

A sea captain once left his family for a long sea voyage, telling them what night he expected to return home. As he started, his little girl said, "Papa, I will place a light in the window the night you return so that when far out on the sea you can see the light and know which is your

home." It was a dark, stormy night when he returned, but far out on the deep waters of the ocean he looked toward his home but saw no light. He wondered why his little daughter did not have her light in the window so he could tell where his home was. As he entered the harbor, he still saw no light in his home. When he knocked at the door and his wife opened the door into the dark hall, he said to his wife, "Where is the light that our little girl said she would place in the window so I could tell where our home was when out at sea?" "Oh, Father," she said, "you were not gone but a few days when our sweet little girl was taken sick, and at one o'clock in the lone night, as I stood by her when dying, she said, 'Tell Papa I will not be here when he returns from his voyage at sea to place a light in our earthly home for him but will place one for him in the window of Heaven.'" Dear reader, how many of us have some dear one out of our earthly homes who have already crossed the river and are now lights in the upper world to make us think, day and night, in our earthly pilgrimage how soon we will meet them in our heavenly home.

## Shine as the Stars

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“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.”—Daniel xii: 3.

There are many things in this world that are beautiful. How beautiful the rainbow is when we see it stretching its great arch across the dark clouds after a storm! How beautiful the flowers are when they come out some bright spring morning with all their varying colors and fill the air with their fragrance! How beautiful to look on the western sky when the sun is setting and his beams gild all the clouds with glory! Yet how much more beautiful to go out some clear night and look on the heavens and see the stars all glittering, sparkling and shining like diamonds far off in the blue firmament!

This last illustration is the one Daniel uses to show that “They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars in heaven forever.” When Solomon became king God came to him in the night and asked him what He should give him. Solomon said, “Give, therefore, Thy servant an

understanding heart to judge Thy people that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this, Thy so great a people?" And God said unto him, "Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself nor hast asked the life of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold, I have done according to thy words; lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee." God gave Solomon such wisdom as no other king that ever lived. And see what he says about those that turn many to righteousness: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that winneth souls is wise." Solomon says, "He that winneth souls is wise." And Daniel says, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever." The stars which God has set in the heavens are shining just as brightly now as they did thousands of years ago, when Abraham and Moses gazed on them. These stars will shine on in their beauty until the sun is stricken from his throne in the heavens. The beautiful heavens on which we gaze at night is just what God compares His people to when

they turn sinners from darkness unto His glorious light. The most of men want to shine some way in this world. But most of those who want to shine by becoming great warriors, such as Napoleon, or to seek some position in Senate, Congress, or to become President of the United States, will only shine in this life and then die in darkness on the shores of eternity.

Like Elizabeth, the great and gifted queen of England, when dying she cried out, "An inch of time! Millions of money for an inch of time!" She might have been dying on the best bed in England and ten thousand dresses in her wardrobe and a kingdom at her feet, on which the sun never set. But with all this, she had lived seventy years and made no preparation for eternity; and now she must die in darkness, without Christ, and leave all her possessions here to others. We ought to seek a life in which we can shine here and then shine brighter in eternity.

When John Bunyan, who wrote "Pilgrim's Progress," was put in prison by his enemies, Mr. Bunyan's friends thought this very strange. They could not understand why God would permit such a useful man to be shut up in prison so long, when he might have been preaching to great crowds. But in that prison, John Bunyan kindled one of the brightest lights the world has

ever seen; "Pilgrim's Progress" is one of the greatest books that has ever been written, beside the Bible. He might never have written this book if he had not been thrown into prison. The children of God have always learned more of God in prisons, dens, caves and fires than anywhere else in this world. It was when Paul and Silas had many stripes laid on them and were thrust into prison, with their feet fast in the stocks at midnight, that they got so happy praying and singing praises unto God. Daniel learned more of God's power in the den of lions than anywhere else in his life. Elijah found out more about how God could provide for His people in a cave than any other place he had ever been in his life. The Hebrew children, when cast into the fiery furnace, learned a lesson of how God could take care of His people as at no other place. It is in places like this that men of God have kindled lights that will shine for time and eternity.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." Those of us who are saved look back to the Cross where we got life and light, but look forward to the great White Throne, to the marriage supper of the Lamb, when we shall receive our

rewards for good deeds in this life. We run to the hill-top of Calvary for the redemption of our souls, then from there we run to the hill-top of glory for our crown. For every good deed we do from the day we are saved till our death we shall receive a reward.

“According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now, if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” So from these verses we see that the evil acts of our lives are burned like hay and stubble, and the good deeds of our lives are rewarded. How careful we ought to be in life about our deeds, that they might stand the test when revealed by that day of fire. “And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every

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man according as his work shall be. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now, they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Paul was not running to be saved, but running for his crown because he was saved. We cannot run to get life, but run because we have life. Paul was afraid if he did not keep his body in subjection some one else would beat him in the race, and get his crown, and he be a castaway at the great crowning day in eternity. When I was in college at Salem, Virginia, in 1882, ten of us ran for a gold medal, but one got the prize and the other nine were castaways, but not dead.

Thousands of ministers, through some kind of sins, lose their usefulness and power with God, but not their souls. A true child of God ought to fear this more than death, to think that by his poor spiritual living, men must stumble over him into hell. Paul knew before he left this world that he had gained his crown, and that when he



should cross the river of death he would hear from the lips of his blessed Saviour, "Come, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." "For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He shall reward every man according to his works." Now this reward is for saved people, and if we wish to have a bright crown on that great crowning day we must follow Christ and keep in His sunshine in this life.

There was a great flower show in London and thousands of flowers were brought to compete for the prize. At the close of the show the judge read out that a beautiful geranium had taken the prize and that the owner should come forward and get the prize. A little girl came forward. The judge asked her how she had grown such a beautiful flower? She told him that it was given

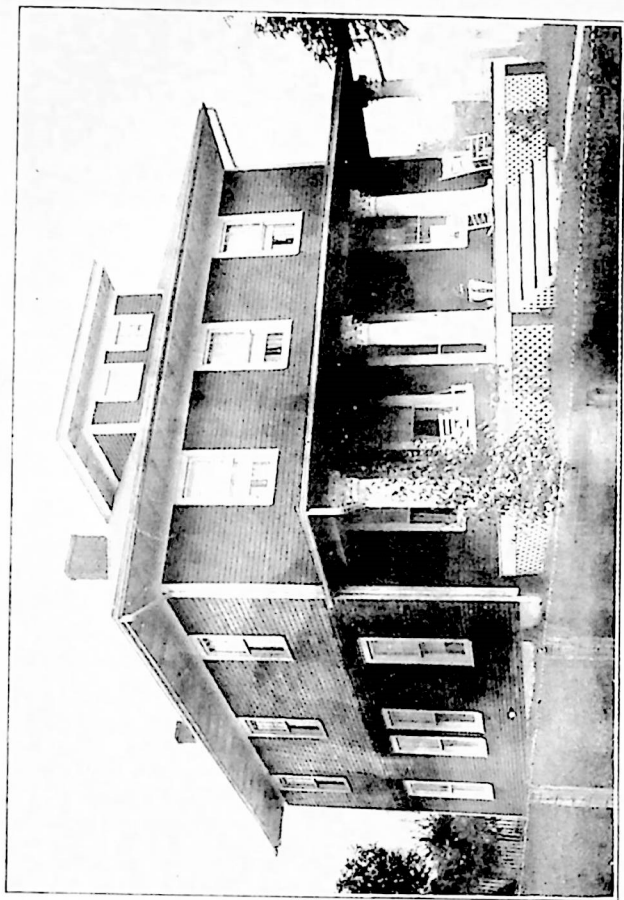
to her when very small and that she was told it must have plenty of water and sunshine. And she said there was but little sunshine in the court where she lived and that she would rise up early in the morning, and as the sun moved around the house she would move the plant, and that was the way she had grown such a beautiful flower that had taken the prize at the great flower show. This is the way we will get our crowns at the great crowning day.

I was at Yorktown Centennial, in 1882, where I saw something like a thousand men in brass bands, marching in a circle of about one mile on the sea coast. The first band in the march was from Virginia, and as they got near where the President and about thirty thousand people were assembled, the band began playing Dixie. Then the great crowd raised a salute. Then another band passed by from some other state, so they kept on passing, until about twenty states had been represented. Then you could see another band coming; it looked in the distance like they were clad in gold, as they got near the President and the crowd they began to play "Napoleon Bonaparte's Retreat," and it seemed to shake the earth and fill all the air with music. Then a feeling of awe came over the great crowd as they saw that the band from France had eclipsed

America. That Centennial made me think of the great parade and crowning day that shall take place at the marriage supper of the Lamb, when the last child of God shall come into Heaven on the old Ship of Zion.

Then the mother who was true to her children and led them to Christ about the family altar while in this world, will pass by the great White Throne with stars in her crown to represent each child she led to Christ. Then Heaven will ring with music. Then some minister who has been faithful and true to Christ in his living and preaching will pass by with a thousand stars in his crown and the hosts of Heaven will shout with joy, for there will be no jealousy there among ministers and saints. Look and see another passing by the Throne, D. L. Moody, with a crown glittering with a half million stars; then see another coming on the gold-paved streets toward the Throne. It is Charles Finney. As he passes by the Throne, his crown glittering and sparkling in the light of Heaven with more than a million stars. Then all the saints in glory will say, amen. "One star differeth from another star in glory."

I read of a girl who said she dreamed she was in Heaven and saw the saints wearing crowns, some had many stars, others but few. So she



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asked what was the meaning of these stars? She was told that they represented the number of souls they led to Christ while on the earth. Then the girl took her crown off to see how many stars were in it and saw none. At that she became frightened and awoke and thanked God she was not in Heaven. But that day she started out to lead the lost to Christ. Oh, let us shine for Christ now, and then away off in the sweet eternity we will shine as the stars forever and ever.

## The Great Physician

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“Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.”—Psalms ciii: 3.

Here we have a physician that gives away the two greatest blessings this world has ever known, that is, the salvation of the soul from sin and the restoration of the body from disease. He was as perfect in one as He was in the other. Christ, in order to be the Great Physician for man, must be able to cure the worst case of disease as well as to save the worst sinner, if not so He could never have been a perfect Saviour for the human race. Man is a double being of soul and body, and Jesus, to be a perfect physician, must be able to master and cure both. Man with a saved soul and a diseased body forever would be a very poor man, and with a wicked soul and a sound body forever would not be half of a man. When Adam fell in the Garden of Eden the whole human race was ruined, both soul and body, for time and eternity, unless some remedy could be found. That remedy was found alone in Jesus Christ. When Christ left Heaven and came to this lost and ruined world, He did not

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come here to halfway redeem man, and leave him a soul and a body that would be at war with each other forever, but that when He had finished His work on soul and body He would leave both together in perfect harmony to praise Him in eternity.

Sin has made war between soul and body now, but, thank God, after a while they will come together never to have another battle. I have often, in life, prayed and cried when I thought how often I have grieved the good Spirit in this body, but then, with great joy, I look forward to my home in the sweet eternity and know we will both be together there never again to grieve the good Spirit. Like the old soldier in the war thinks, a few more battles to be fought and then the war is over, and I am going home. Jesus Christ, as the physician of the soul and body, in order to close that great chasm which sin has rent between the two, goes back along the line of man's transgressions to the origin in the Garden of Eden, then follows the serpent trail of sin to the cross, and there He dies its death on the cross as He cries out, "It is finished." Then He follows disease on down the line of sickness to the resurrection morning and there we see man, soul and body, redeemed in his full-orbed glory. Jesus, the Great



Physician, who went over the earth and made the lame to walk, opened the eyes of the blind, and raised the dead, never caught their disease and got sick so He could not heal others. We hear preaching about the sinless Christ, but when did we hear any one preach that He was a man of perfect health, who never got sick? Sickness has its origin in sin, either actual or ancestral; Christ had neither. "In Him was life," and as sick men touched Him they were made perfectly whole. Take sickness, follow it back to its origin and you will find sin. Take sin also, follow it, and you will find disease. Look at the dram drinker, and after a while you will see him with delirium tremens. David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." All that have been born since David were born sinners with a corrupt, diseased body and must suffer from sickness, and die. Jesus Christ was begotten from Heaven by the Holy Ghost, and that could not give Him a corrupt body, subject to disease and death, but a spiritual body that could not die unless sin was imputed to Him. Our body is now a natural body, but will be raised a spiritual body like Christ had when on earth and like He now has in Heaven. "There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body. And as it is written, The first man, Adam, was made

a living soul, the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural, and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth earthy, the second man is the Lord from Heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy, and as is the Heavenly, such are they also that are Heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy we shall also bear the image of the Heavenly." Christ, after His resurrection, came to His disciples and said to them, "Behold My hands and My feet that it is I Myself; handle Me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see Me have." He went back to Heaven with the same body with which He came to this world. We shall see that same body that walked the earth and hung on the cross in our place. His flesh was not a corrupt flesh like ours, or He could not have gone to Heaven. His body was the kind we will have after the resurrection. We will have a body then that will never take yellow fever or any other disease. You may think, how was He "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," if He did not have a corrupt body of flesh as we have now? His suffering in this world was sympathetic until He went to the cross and took our place and suffered for our sins. Jesus Christ

did not feel any temptation to get drunk as the drunkard, neither had He any temptation to swear. He never had any personal experience from remorse of conscience for being drunk, as the drunkard. His suffering in seeing a man drunk, hearing him swear, or seeing him steal, was sympathetic. Now, to make this so you may understand it: Suppose two Christian men are standing on the street and see a poor drunkard fall on the side-walk, the one who is the better Christian will suffer more in mind for the poor drunkard than the other. So the less sin in your life and the nearer you get to the life of Christ the more awful will be your suffering in seeing a man lost. Let me give you another illustration of sympathetic suffering: See that mother and son living together, the son goes away the first of the week to get work to support his mother, but comes back Saturday night and could get no work. When they go to supper there is on the table but half of a loaf of bread, the mother looks at the bread and thinks, "poor boy could get no work and that is all the bread he has to live on," so the tears run down her cheeks and she cannot eat; the son, on the other side of the table, looks at the bread and thinks, "That is all my poor mother has to live on and I cannot eat." This is not hunger that is hurting them, but the

sympathy for each other. This is the kind of suffering Jesus Christ had in seeing a man drink, swear, steal, or do any other sin that made him unhappy, or might send him to hell.

Jesus, having no sin nor disease in His life, may have suffered ten thousand times more in His mind than we could suffer in seeing a man do wrong. When Jesus said, "O Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." When Jesus stood there and looked over Jerusalem, and away across the gulf of time into eternity and saw the thousands and millions who would reject Him and be lost, He wept. That was sympathetic suffering; the same when He wept with Martha and Mary when their brother was dead. When Jesus, the Great Physician, came into their towns and villages to heal, they were not afraid they would catch some awful disease from Him, but they went running with their sick in beds to Him, or even put them on the side-walk where He could but touch them and they were made whole. Look at the woman in the fifth chapter of Mark, "She had suffered many things of many physicians and had spent all that she had and was nothing bettered, but

rather grew worse." She had the experience of thousands of this day, who spend all with many physicians and get worse. Poor woman, she has been to see all the best physicians, spent all her money, and is now back at home with a broken heart, given up to die. One day, as she is sitting in her room thinking of her awful condition, she hears a rap at the door and as she opens the door, there is her nephew, who lives down by the Sea of Galilee. "Come in, John. Glad to see you." "Well, Aunt Mary, how are you getting along these days?" "Bad enough, John. I have been to the best physicians of the land and they have gotten all my money and I am much worse and have just given up to die." "Well, Aunt, I saw a man that could cure you if you could get to Him." "Oh, no, John, that man doesn't live that could cure me, I must die." "Well, Aunt, I will tell you what I saw a man do in our town, that they called Jesus. He just spat on the ground and made clay and put on the eyes of a man that was born blind, and then said to him, 'Go and wash,' the man did, and came back seeing." "You never saw that." "Yes, I did. But that was not the greatest thing I saw Him do. I was coming into the city of Nain the same time that Jesus and His disciples were, and just as we were coming near the gate of the city, 'Behold, there

was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her He had compassion on her and said unto her, Weep not. And He came and touched the bier and they that bore him stood still. And He said, young man, I say unto thee, arise. And he that was dead sat up and began to speak.' Then I saw him leap out of his coffin and throw his arms around his mother and they went back up the street, leaping and shouting and the son saying, 'Mother, when I told you good-by the other night, I was certain I would not see you again till I met you in Heaven, but glory to God! dear Mother, Jesus has brought me back from the dead to live with you again.' " "You did not see that, did you, John?" "O yes, Aunt, and five hundred saw the same thing, and I never heard such shouting in the world as the crowd did in the streets." "Do you think, John, He will ever come this way?" "Yes, He was coming this way the last time I saw Him." In a few days the road by her home is crowded with people, going to town. So she speaks to some one passing by and asked them if there is a show in town to-day. "No, woman, have you not heard the good news? Jesus is over there healing the sick." See her run into the house, get her bonnet, no time now

to starch or look in the glass, down the road she goes toward the town, using all the strength she has to make good time. When she gets in sight of the town she sees a great crowd around a house, the street in front of the house is just filled with people. As she gets near the crowd she asks if Jesus is on the inside of the house. They tell her, "Yes." She says, "If I may touch but His clothes I shall be whole." See her push her way through the crowd until she did touch Him. "And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace and be whole of thy plague." All that touched Him or that He touched went away made whole, praising God.

If Jesus was on earth to-day in some town, block after block of the streets would be filled with the sick, trying to get to Him. And the rich would girdle the world, bringing their sick friends and relatives to Christ. But how is it to-day? You see in some newspaper that a certain doctor can cure all diseases, but, by sad experience, you find it is not true. Then we see again in the papers that the waters of certain springs will cure all kinds of sickness. That the Saratoga Springs, of New York, will cure dyspepsia and similar diseases, but we go there, get worse, and come away to die. Then we go to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to get cured of rheu-

matism, but come back no better. So all the doctors and places have failed to cure us. Jesus, the Great Physician, never sent them away like that, but all that came to Him were sent away made whole, glorifying God for what He had done for them. From the time the Lord began His earthly ministry until His work was finished and He went back to Heaven, two things He did all the time,—saved the souls of men from sin and restored their bodies from sickness. Did this stop when Christ ascended up into glory? The apostles and evangelists preached the same and the same results followed, which marked His own. Peter at one time says, "Repent," at another time, to the lame man, he says, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Paul says to the jailor of Philippi, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Then he says to the cripple of Lystra, "Stand upon thy feet." Christ Himself said to the disciples, when He sent them out to preach, "And these signs shall follow them that believe, in My name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Paul tells us again in Corinthians, "For to one is given by the Spirit, the word of



wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gift of healing, by the same Spirit." Why do we hear of so few people being healed in these days? Because most of the ministers preach that the age of miracles is past, and the gifts of healing have been withdrawn from the children of God. The Bible does not teach that kind of doctrine; Jesus is just as willing now to restore the sick in answer to prayer as in any other age of the world, but from wrong teaching, the people have lost faith in Christ! Thousands lie on sick beds and suffer for weeks, months and years because they do not know what power Jesus has to heal them. Thousands are dying early in life, who would live to be over a hundred years of age if they would practice what Jesus taught them about their soul and body. If a man should preach and practice to-day what Jesus taught him to preach he would be looked upon as an enthusiast and a fanatic, and threatened with the law and imprisonment. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" I know that Jesus will restore loved ones in answer to prayer. When I was in California, and my wife had been sick for months, and I had

had five or six doctors, one night, about midnight, she grew worse, I went for the doctor and as we were coming along the street he told me he could do nothing for her. That night, as the doctor left the room about one o'clock, my wife said she felt as if her bones would cut through the flesh before day, her suffering was so great. I then bowed my head against the wall and told the blessed Saviour I knew He had saved my soul and that He could stop the awful pain and let her sleep and get well. Then I said, "Lord, I know you will do it now." When I said that it seemed that a vision of Heaven broke in on my mind and I said to my wife, "Your pain is gone." She said, "Yes, I am going to sleep." The next morning she asked me if I did not ask the Lord to make her well? I said I did. In a few weeks we were in the train coming back east, across the Rocky Mountains.

There is a fable told of a rich king, who was hunting in a forest and found a poor blind boy and took him home with him and the blind boy was taught all he could be until he was twenty-one years of age, when the king took him into the fine palace and there gave sight to his blind eyes and told him he was an heir to all his kingdom. So when all the clouds of sorrow, sickness and death have rolled away before the light of

eternity, and in our glorified vision, we will look away across the crystal sea and bright plains of Heaven and behold the King in His beauty, on the white throne, and hear Him say, "You are an heir to all the riches of glory."

## Reap What We Sow

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“Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”—Gal. vi: 7.

There are two fields in which we are sowers, the one is the natural field in which the soil of the earth is the receiver of the seed, the other is the moral, or spiritual world in which the human heart is the receiver of the seed. In these fields we first sow and then we reap. In the natural field the seed is cast into the soil of the earth and to all human appearance it seems to perish, but after a while it springs up, grows, blooms and from the bloom follows the fruit. In the moral and spiritual world the process is very much the same, the words of good or evil are spoken and lodge in some human mind, and for a while seem to be lost, but after a while that word is spoken to another and another until the world is girdled and sown by a single sentence uttered by a good spirit or an evil one. You have heard often in life that if you but drop a pebble in a lake of water it will cause a small ring at first on the water, then another outside of that

and then another and then another, till the influence of the pebble is felt over the entire bosom of the water. So in our life we start waves of influence for good or evil that go down over one generation after another until the waves lash up against the shores of eternity. Let us look a little at what influence we have in the world. See that young man there on the corner of the street who never took a dram in his life, but another young man comes up to him and says, "Let us go and get a dram this morning, it will make us both feel better." So the young man yields and from that dram becomes a drunkard, and he makes a hundred more drunkards in his life and that hundred makes a thousand more drunkards in their lifetime, and that thousand makes a million more drunkards in their generation. So away off in eternity, millions will cry, "Lost, lost, from that young man saying, 'come and take a dram with me.'" Look at the good side of sowing good seed. There was a young man saved the other night in a revival, as he went home he began to think of another young man, a friend of his, until away in the night he rose from his bed, and in agony of prayer, he asked God to save his friend. The next day he meets this young man on the street and tells him how he prayed for him in the lone hours of the night and

by this the young man is converted and becomes a convert to Christ and goes out in the world preaching Jesus and Him crucified until he leads a thousand souls into the Kingdom of God. When he has gone to Heaven this thousand will lead a million more to Christ. So in Heaven there will be millions praising God in their white robes because this young man told his friend on the street that he had prayed for him in the night. Charles IX uttered one sentence one night that was the cause of seventy-five thousand saints being put to death that same night. After he uttered that sentence, as he sat in his chair that night, great drops of blood came out on his face as the fires of hell were lashing his conscience. This was the most awful crime, I suppose, that the world has ever seen outside of the crucifixion of Christ.

“Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” The longer I live the more I see this is true; go anywhere on this earth, among civilized or uncivilized, and you will find this subject proves itself to be true. Read the Bible and you will find the same thing true from the beginning till the end of the book. See how Jacob deceived his father by killing two kids and prepared the meat and brought it to his father and said, “I am Esau, thy firstborn, I have done according

as thou badest me. Rise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me." His father, Isaac, did eat and bless Jacob. And so Jacob, by telling his father lies, got the blessing that belonged to his brother, Esau. But long years after that, Jacob gets paid back in his own coin. His sons take Joseph off and sell him and then they kill a kid, just the thing he deceived his father with, and put blood on the coat of Joseph and brought the coat to their father and told him that some wild beast had eaten their brother. Now Jacob, in his old days, must reap for years what he had sown in his younger life. As the days, weeks, months and years went by, awake or asleep, no matter where he was, he could see the bloody coat and think, "Some wild beast has eaten my dear boy." A bitter harvest he was reaping for the way he did his brother. Look at the sons of Jacob, they sold their brother, Joseph, and long years after that, down in Egypt, their sins followed them and they said, "We are guilty of the blood of our brother." Eli, the high priest, had two sons, who cared nothing for God. The father failed to correct them, so in the battle against the Philistines, these two sons were slain and Eli himself, when he heard the sad news, fell back from his seat and broke his neck. So all through the Bible we see that men reap what

they sow. I have seen this subject illustrated and proven in towns and cities everywhere I have preached for twenty years. I was once preaching in a city where the son of the father with whom I was boarding, shot and killed a young man in the street. The father said to me he would spend all the money he had to keep his son from going to the penitentiary, or being hung. So he did spend his money and kept his son from the penitentiary, but two years from that time another young man shot and killed this young man on the street very near the same spot where he had killed the other young man. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

I was also preaching a few years ago in a little town in this State where one of the leading physicians of the State was living, and he would come to hear me preach almost every day. I went to him in the service, also to his home, and said, "Doctor, you ought to be a Christian." "Yes," he said, "I like to hear you preach, but I must whip a man before I can become a Christian." I said, "Doctor, better let that alone and give your life to Christ." After I left the town the man he said he was going to whip became afraid of him and went to have this physician bound over to the peace. When the time came to have the doctor bound over to the peace, he said, "Let



me cross the room and slap the man in the face before you bind me over to keep the peace." As he did this he thrust a large dirk into the man's chest. As the man fell over dying he took a revolver from his pocket to shoot him with. As he did this another man knocked the revolver from his hand and a friend of the man that was stabbed took it up and killed the physician with his own revolver. So the Bible says: "Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken." This took place on the same floor in the public schoolhouse where I preached and pleaded with him to give his life to Christ. I went there sometime after that and saw the blood on the floor. Now if a man sows to the flesh he will reap bitter disappointment and sorrow in this life, and awful gloom, death and hell in eternity. If he sows to the spirit he will reap joy, peace and happiness in this life, and a rich harvest of rewards in Heaven.

Now, let us illustrate this subject by two sons from two different homes. The first is a boy about twelve years of age who is unkind to those in his own home; soon he begins to tell falsehoods and get into trouble; his mother talks to him, but no good, he goes on sowing to the flesh from bad to worse. Soon he is drinking and gambling and remains out till way in the night. One night his

mother thinks something is wrong, as she cannot sleep. Just about two o'clock she hears the tread of heavy feet on the porch and soon a rap at the door, and she cries out, "Who is there?" A policeman tells her that her son has shot a man in a gambling den and that he has been arrested and he came to let her know it. The poor mother thinks the worst is now coming. In a few days, see that mother in the courthouse; there she hears one witness after another testify against her son until the trial is over and the judge reads out that her son must hang. Oh, hear the screams of that poor mother in the courthouse. In a few days she sees her boy on the scaffold, as he stands there waiting a little for the last sentence to be uttered over him, he looks back over his past life and his evil deeds—swearing, drinking, gambling and killing all come then to his conscience like coals of living fire, he looks into the future, but it is as black as midnight, not the ray of a single star to shine in the dark valley and shadow of death. So he goes from the scaffold to hell where he shall reap the awful harvest of damnation forever.

Now look at the other boy. He comes from a home where there is a Christian mother, who has had a family altar since she has had a home. This son, ten years old, goes to church one night,

where there is a revival and he sees other boys go forward and get saved, so he goes home and tells his mother he wants to become a Christian and she said, "Bless God, my dear boy, I am praying for you." So the next night he goes back to the revival, goes forward and gives his life to Christ. When he gets back home and tells his mother the good news, that night a shout goes up from that home that is heard in Heaven. The little boy now tells his mother how happy he is and if he should die now he could go to meet his little sister that died just a few weeks ago. He then goes after his other brother and sister and leads them to Christ. As he grows up to be a young man God calls him to preach and he gets thousands to trust Christ in his lifetime. When he comes to die his brother is by his bedside and says, "How is it with you now, brother? You will not be with us long." He says, "Brother, the grace of God makes a dying bed feel soft as downy pillows are, and I am now in sight of Heaven. And brother, as I am now looking back over my life and see the good deeds I was led by the Spirit of God to do toward others and the souls I led to Christ, these good deeds and acts all come now around my dying bed, like the singing of birds when the sun is going down." Then he says, "Brother, I see a white troop

coming and I hear the sweetest music I ever heard. Jesus is calling for me to come home. I will soon meet my sweet mother with Jesus. Good-by, dear brother, till I meet you in glory." "He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Now reader you may think that if God forgives our sins when we trust Him, how does He make us reap what we have sown in this life? I will now illustrate so you can see how this is. Suppose you send out a man on your farm to sow wheat and he gets mad at you and instead of sowing wheat he sows tares. When harvest time comes on you go out to look at your wheat and you find nothing but tares. Then you call him for a settlement. "Well," he says, "I will tell you the truth, I got mad and sowed tares instead of wheat, but I am very sorry and wish your forgiveness." You forgive him, but make him go and reap the tares from the field. So the man who has spent fifty or sixty years of his life drinking and gambling, and then gets saved, and now look at him in his old age when he can do no work for himself or his Lord, but is almost blind and deaf and as his mind goes back over his past life, can see nothing but evil deeds which haunt him day and night and make gloomy hours and often cause him to doubt the love of

Christ, and die with dark clouds between him and Heaven. "Saved with fear pulling them out of the fire." They die like you have seen the sun go down behind a dark storm-cloud and you saw the lightning flashing on the dark bosom of the cloud and the heavy thunder rolling till the earth shakes and trembles, and we say the sun went down in a storm. Look at the Christian man who was saved when a little boy and has spent fifty or sixty years in the service of his blessed Saviour. And now he is old and can do no more work for his Lord and is almost blind and cannot look on the blue sky and the beautiful mountains on which he gazed when "he remembered his Creator in the days of his youth." But now, as he sits in his chair, waiting his time to go to Heaven he looks back over his life and sees how much he has done for the Lord and how the Lord has blessed him all these years, and this makes sunshine all about his dying bed, and at last he falls sweetly asleep in the arms of his blessed Saviour and not a cloud between him and Heaven. His life closed as you have seen the sun set at another time.

You have seen the sun go down behind the hills, then you have seen the clouds floating across the western skies all gilded with sunbeams as if swimming in a sea of glory. I have often gazed

at such a sunset and thought, "O, let me die that way."

"But the path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." I have seen the maple and sugar trees in the fall of the year prettier than at any other time of the season as the leaves turn such a pretty yellow and red color just before they fall from their summer home to die. Let us so live that our last days may shine with more beauty and loveliness than any other part of our life. Just before we fall in the field of battle, by death, to go home.

## Knowledge Shall Increase

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“Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”—Daniel xii: 4.

Knowledge has increased ever since Adam came out of the Garden of Eden, but religion has not kept equal pace all this time. From the days of Adam up till now, as one man died another would jump up and tell what that man knew and added his little store of knowledge to what the other man had on hand when he left the world; when he goes the next man to come on the stage will do the same thing. The country is now having a rich harvest, financially, from the brain work of men of the last hundred years. It has been more than four hundred years since Columbus discovered and took possession of America, yet he did not know at that time anything of the value of this country; how rich it was in iron, coal, oil, gas, silver and gold. He had it all but no knowledge of what he had in his possession. For four hundred years we have been getting a wonderful knowledge of what is here, and yet many rich mines are undiscovered. We might keep on for four

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hundred years more opening up new mines and finding hidden treasures in the earth, but all this time nothing new for us to own. So when we are born into the Kingdom of God, all that God has for time and eternity is ours, but because we have no knowledge of how rich we are we live in spiritual poverty. The people of America a hundred years ago were rich, but they had no knowledge of their riches, so they had to work hard and live poor. Men did not know how to find these things in the earth and air and put them together so they would work. In other words, they did not know how to hitch all this stuff together so it would move over the earth and do the things they wished to accomplish. The lack of knowledge kept them poor. The radio was here in the air, and electricity, but men did not know how to put the air and electricity together to make it take wings and carry a message through the air. The aeroplane was here in the forest, in gas and oil, but men did not know how to hitch all these things together so they could ride among the clouds and stars and look down on the hills and mountains beneath them. See how long men have been working on the automobile to get it to work as it is working to-day. When I was in California thirty years ago the automobile was working in



the form of a bicycle then. The country was then going wild over that kind of a riding machine. You could see seventy-five or a hundred men and women coming into a town, dressed in uniforms, riding bicycles. It was a beautiful sight to see them riding, but that kind of riding was too much work for the body and not pleasure enough. Now it takes a little more mind to engineer the riding and not quite so much labor. As knowledge increased, the bicycle turned into an automobile. I saw the automobile in Washington City in 1898, running around on some kind of high wheels, something like a buggy.

The increase of knowledge and wealth leads to an increase of pleasure and forgetfulness of God. As the Psalmist says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God." It looks to-day like the nations, churches and ministers are all about to forget God. See that discussion in New York last fall by a number of so-called doctors of divinity, debating for weeks to see if the Bible would harmonize with modern thought and science, or if it was really an inspired book of God. Many of them decided that much of the Bible was not inspired and, therefore, it was not from God and was not true. Think of such stuff as this to-day when millions of the children of God have lived and died and

testified that the blessed old Book was true, and thousands went as martyrs to the stake and, while their bodies were burning, their souls would shout, "It is true," as they went up from the flames to their home beyond the sky. One reason so many ministers these days are finding fault with the Bible is because they have never been converted and are the children of the devil and do not know God and the Bible. The Bible is like the ocean. There are some places in it where the water is so shallow that a child may wade in it with entire safety, but there are other places where the water is so deep that a giant might swim in it, and with the longest line ever let down, no one can touch the bottom. These unsaved preachers when they go to swim in these deep places always drown. This class of ministers know just about as much about the Bible as a janitor of a school knew about mathematics when he threw up his job. When asked the trouble he said, "I am honest, and I won't stand being slurred. If I find a pencil or handkerchief about the school when I'm sweeping I hang or put it up. Every little while the teacher or some one that is too cowardly to face me, will give me a slur. A little while ago I seen wrote on the board, 'Find the least common multiple.' Well, I looked from cellar to garret for that thing

and I wouldn't know the thing if I would meet it in the street. Last night in big writin' on the blackboard it said, 'Find the greatest common divisor.' 'Well,' I says to myself, 'both of them things are lost now; and I'll be accused of takin' 'em, so I'll quit.' "

This class of unsaved men in the pulpit have not the Spirit of God to guide them in the truth, and so they do not know how to divide the word of God. They put the wrong scripture to the wrong man, as I have often heard them say to the unsaved man, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." And every *blessed* in the Bible is to the saved and not one to the unsaved man. This kind of ignorance in the pulpit kept me in doubt about my soul at times for twenty years. I would hear one preach, do something to get to Heaven, another would preach, do something else, another preach if you neglect to do certain things you will be lost. So all these twenty years I was certain I had been converted but by hearing all this ignorance I thought I had done something or left undone something by which I was lost. But when I saw how Christ had paid for all my sins and I was eternally saved, it seemed like a thousand Heavens broke on my mind, and the world and everything seemed different, and I found I had

never known what real happiness was. I would not be back there again in doubt about my soul for all the money in the world.

Reader, if you know you have been born again and can look to some time in life where you surrendered all to God and found that peace of which Paul speaks in the fifth chapter of Romans, when he says, "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God," you are as certain of Heaven as if you were there now. We are born into the Kingdom of God but once, as we are born into our earthly home but once. The prodigal son wandered away from home, but the father's love brought him back. God's children may go far away into the wilderness of sin, but God brings them all back. His word declares this fact. "As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." We are not saved for a day, week, month or year, God has only eternal redemption for a soul. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews ix: 12. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body

of Jesus Christ once for all. For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." Hebrews x: 10, 14. When we believe on Christ what becomes of our sins? Let the Bible with a few verses answer this question. "As far as the east is from the west so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Psalms cxiii: 12. Who can ever find out how far the east is from the west? "Behold for peace I had great bitterness, but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption for thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back." Isaiah xxxviii: 17. Who knows where the back of God is to be found? "He will turn again; He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depth of the sea." Micah vii: 19. So you must go to the depth of the sea to find your sins. See in the New Testament: "And by Him, all that believeth are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Act xiii: 39. Those in Heaven cannot be more than justified from all things. "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews x: 17. "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Bless God, in time nor in eternity, no sin will ever come up against the believer. From the time they believe on Jesus

they forever stand before God with all their sins covered, just as if they had never committed a sin in their lives. The believer can say I have no sin against me in God's Book. If I were to turn over every page of God's eternal Book I should see every debt of mine receipted and canceled.

"Complete atonement Thou hast made,  
And to its utmost farthing paid  
Whate'er Thy people owed.  
How then can wrath on me take place,  
Now standing in God's righteousness,  
And sprinkled with His blood?"

"Since He hath my discharge procured,  
And freely in my place endured  
The whole of wrath Divine,  
Payment God will not twice demand,  
First at my bleeding surety's hand,  
And then at mine."

It is the lack of knowledge that causes thousands of the people of God to live in doubt about their souls. Just like when Columbus discovered and took possession of America, the people for many years worked hard and lived poor because they had no knowledge of how rich this country was. The children of God the day they are born into the Kingdom of God become heirs to all God has in time and eternity. He says, "All things are yours," but because they have no knowledge of how rich they are for time and eternity, they live in doubt and spiritual

poverty. A man may own something and be immensely rich and, because he has no knowledge of the value of what he has, live in poverty. Let us illustrate this subject. Here is a farmer who has a small farm, and the surface of the earth is very poor. He makes but little by farming. One day he says to his wife, "I suppose we will starve on this poor farm after all our hard work." One day a mineralogist was walking over his farm and found a gold mine worth a hundred thousand dollars. Now you see he was rich, he had a good deed to the farm; it was all his; but because he had no knowledge of what he had, he was living in poverty. This is where I was living at times (in doubt) for twenty years, because I had no knowledge of the value of what God had done for me when he gave me eternal life. This is why the great mass of God's people are living in doubt to-day. They think when they do something wrong they are lost instead of being pardoned sinners. The reason I have made this subject so plain from the word of God is because there are thousands of men and women in the world who want to know if a person can be certain of Heaven while in this life. I want to show them from the Bible how they can be certain of Heaven, as this is the most important subject that ever entered a human mind. You

might listen to the most of ministers for a lifetime and not learn from their preaching how a man can be certain of Heaven. I know, because I have listened to them for years, all over the continent.

The most of preachers these days are of such a doubtful kind that they can supply no food for a hungry soul who is in search of truth. To keep on telling a starving man about men starving would do him no good. If you wish to do him good and make him happy give him some ham, chicken, turkey and ice-cream. If you meet a man on the road to Heaven, and he has heard of great difficulties in the way, to keep him out of Heaven, to keep on telling him of these dangers will do him no good. If you wish to do him good and make him happy tell him how he can be certain of Heaven and that God has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish." This is why I have put into these sermons the very marrow of the Gospel, so the believer can see from the word of God how they can have assurance that God does not want us to live in doubt about our future home. Peter said, "And beside this giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge." "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your



calling and election sure, for if ye do these things ye shall never fall. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

So Peter tells us to make our calling and election sure. Job, back in the Old Testament, on the other side of the cross, had assurance when he said, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold and not another." David had assurance when he said, "As for me I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness." Men of the Old and New Testaments both have assurance. Paul had assurance when he said, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." "We are confident, I say and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." No intelligent man would rather be absent from the body unless he knew he would be in Heaven with the Lord. John had assurance when he climbed to the highest mountain peak of grace in

the Bible and from this peak took up his telescope and looked over into eternity and said, "Beloved now are we the sons of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is." Every child of God can have assurance who has a knowledge of their salvation from the Bible.

Reader, if you are saved you can know that when the last earthly sun shall set, and you tell your loved ones good-by for the last time, there will not be a cloud between you and Heaven. And as the Psalmist said you need "Fear no evil of the valley and the shadow of death," when the last minute comes you can fall sweetly asleep in the arms of the Lord Jesus and hear His sweet voice saying, "It is I; be not afraid." Then with the angels to escort you up through the eternal blue, passing the fading stars as you go, shouting "home, sweet home," till you enter the pearly gates, greeted by the harps of Heaven and the hosts of God, going up before the great white throne, and there beholding the King in His beauty and hear from His lovely lips, "Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." And then with a crown and a white robe you pass on to the high hills of Heaven, and there sit under the cedars of God,

and in your glorified vision look away across the crystal sea and bright plains of Heaven and hear again from the King of all kings, as He sits upon His throne, saying, "You are an heir to all the riches of glory." Then you can join in with all the millions of the redeemed saying, "Glory and honor and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

## Best Wishes and Prayers For My Friends

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I have sold my books to thousands of ministers and business men of all classes through the South. Many of the best business men have given me from ten to fifty dollars for my books, to show how highly they appreciate their value. Besides this, they have bought many of the books and given them to persons who were not so able to buy them as they were. Such men as W. A. Erwin and General Carr, of Durham, N. C.; Edward F. Sheffey, Lynchburg, Va.; James D. Johnston and Robert H. Angell, Roanoke, Va.; Tom Lupton, Chattanooga, Tenn.; A. C. Hufford, Welch, W. Va.; Harry Scherr and S. D. Stokes, attorneys, Williamson, W. Va.; Cary Alderson and Dr. Farley, Logan, W. Va.; Judge Miller, Hinton, W. Va.; Dr. Luther Clark, Kyle, W. Va.; Aaron Catzen, Northfork, W. Va.; C. H. Thompson, Roncevert, W. Va.; W. H. Straley, attorney, Princeton, W. Va.; E. W. Hale, Princeton, W. Va.; Dr. C. M. Scott, Bluefield, W. Va.; Dr. W. C. McNew, Bluefield, W. Va.; Frank S. Easley, Lamar Epperly and H. W. Crockett,

coal operators, Bluefield, W. Va.; Bernard McCaugherty, D. M. Easley and George Dillard, attorneys, Bluefield, W. Va.

I was in the office of George Dillard one day and he said, "I have all of your books and am waiting for the next new book to come off of the press." Then he gave me a check, saying, "I have faith in you and your prayers as I have in no other minister living. I said, "It pays to live right." May the friends whose names I have given, and many whom I would like to give, continue to be more useful in the years to come in doing good deeds to make the world better, that when this short life is over they may be richly rewarded in Heaven.

This is the wish and prayer of the author.

W. W. SMITH,  
Wytheville, Virginia.





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