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The Voyage of Life.

BY THE REV. W. R. FITCH. The voyage of life is nearly past, And my journey is almost o'er ! The haven near I see at last, And the lights along the shore.

So near my home! O, can it be I've safely crossed life's stormy sea?

No more will waves rise mountain high And toss my frail bark to and fro, Nor dark clouds sweep along the sky, Nor angry winds around me blow. No more will fear rise in my breast, Nor wild alarms disturb my rest.

A stormy voyage, and yet I know His guiding hand was at the helm, And waves might dash, and winds might blow.

But they could never overwhelm My little bark, for He was near To give me strength and banish fear.

But now I near the heavenly shore, And soon will anchor in the vale Where storms and tempests are no more. Nor summer's heat nor wintry gale, But fadeless flowers forever bloom, And shed on all their sweet perfume.

I enter now the vale, and see A great white throne uplifted high; Not far away the crystal sea, And tree of life there standing pigh And lo a crown! O, can it be This crown of life is meant for me? Chris. Advocate.

The Life of the Church.

We may with propriety speak of the Church, for, rightly understood, there is such a thing. So long as we minds. We shall surely make a mistake if we think too little of this vital us here to be and to do. and important fact.

This life in general consists in the aggregate life of the various unites son than: How can I discover what which make up the Church. The God's plan for me is, and how may I Church at any given time is the fulfil his purpose? We may be sure expression of the body of that this is a reasonable question. of Christ, which at that particular God is our Father and loves us. He time may be extant upon the earth. In each true member of that body there exists in a more or less active form a definite spiritual life. The aggregate Nothing is more sure than that of the spiritual life of these separate God desires to tell us what is his members makes up the corporate life of the church, with perhaps some additional elements which arise from the fact of this organic life as a corporate whole. If Christ be the vine, and his people be branches in him, then his life and theirs have a community. This life is the corporate ourself to him, taking him as our life of the Church.

Jesus Christ himself. He is the head ever what God would have us do, and and they are the members, who are that whatever the cost, we take his baptized into spiritual union with him, way, not our own. It means that we and so are made partakers of his life. become in reality God's obedient and They have life, and this life is in the loving children. If the heart be thus Son of God. By reason of their vital surrendered to God, we have put our union with him, they have life and self in a relation to him in which we are engrafted into him spiritually.

The agent who produces and determines this life is the Holy Spirit. life. He dwells in each believer, and We must not expect him to appear to erects his temple there, and has been us in a burning bush or in a pillar of promised to the Church for all the cloud and fire, or to send a visible ages. Christ's promise to be with his Church to the end of the world is fulfilled by the Holy Spirit, the other day what we ought to do. God has Comforter, who is to abide with them spoken and is speaking to us continuforever. He leads his Church into all ally in his living word. If we will truth, fits her for all service, and take this word as our guide, it will honors her in many ways. The life- tell us what God's will for us is giving Spirit is the agent who causes he life of the Church to flow into her various channels from Christ, the source of life. The source and agent are thus closely related.

The norm by which this life is to be determined is the Word of God. Each member is begotten again unto a lively hope, being born again of the therein : for then thou shalt make thy incorruptible seed of the Word of God. Then this word dwelling in them rich- have good success." ly in all wisdom and spiritual understan ling, they grow thereby. The be read every day - this may become truth is the means of santification, the rule for conduct, and the promise to cheer, as the individual journeys on. And for the individual the form of the religous life, in its thinking, feeling | we may do it. Thus, and thus only, and acting is determined by the contents of Scripture. And for the have good success, for thus only can voice of God in the human soul necesway. The Holy Scripture supplies the norm for the corporate life of the and her constitution. Here she finds ways. Every day brings its task.

clearly in mind that the norm which will soon die within him. But if he [or made full] in Him," but in order is to determine the life of the Church | begins at once to use his powers and is the Word of God, so that as the to exercise his faculties, they will be living Word is the source of the life, developed, and he will grow into the written Word is the rule, law and manly beauty and strength. The constitution, according to which her doing of God's will for to-day brings high ideal, but it is the only ideal that dawn. Feeble as he was, his poor wit

Church thus determined is to express and clear. ¹tself in active service. She is to be a witness to the world of the reality bushes and pillars of cloud and fire to sides, it is the ideal that the world streets, or elsewhere, he greeted him and power of spiritual and eternal him who has eyes to see the glory in sets before the Christian, hostile with the same words: "Thanky, things. She is to bear the fruit of them. He who lives reverently and though it is to Christ. If you profess Johnny; thanky, Johnny." In after faith, love and good works. The fruits devoutly will continually see the hand to be a Christian, says the world, then years the minister was accustomed to of life of the Church are those features of God and hear the voice of God in you must be like your Master. And say, "When I get to heaven, the first of its activity whereby it is shown to life's events and circumstances. be the kingdom which is not of this

out far and wide. The life of the lantern, carried in the hand, to pour fill the whole earth.

the Lord requires in the world .-Chris, Observer.

Working Out God's Plan.

years as circumstances may carry us; made plain. Thus doing day by day we are here on a divine errand, with that portion of God's purpose for your works it out. No better prayer can thou gavest me to do." Wellspring be offered day by day than we may be enabled to fulfill God's purpose for do not make it mean too much, it is our life. Success is not a splendid important to keep this idea before our career in the eyes of the world; success is being and doing what God sent

No more important question, there fore, can be considered by a young perwould not require of us a certain course of life and yet not be ready to make clear to us what that course is. will for us. How may we learn what his purpose for us is?

The first thing is to submit our life to God. This means a personal surrender of our will to him. We ac knowledge that God is our rightful Lord, but we must voluntarily yield absolute master. This means that we The source of this life in the Lord give up our own way, that we ask can learn what his will-for us is.

Another step is the taking of the word of God as the infallible guide of He it is who unites the members of our life. It is in his word that God Christ's body with him the source of chiefly makes known to us his will. angel to show us the way, or to speak out of the heavens, telling us day by moment by moment. This truth was made very clear to Joshua when he was setting out to fulfil God's purpose for his life: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written way prosperous, and then thou shalt

The Bible is not merely a book to the emp iest kind of task work, utterly without blessing or good. The Bible is God's word and is to be read to find what is God's will for us in order that can we make our way prosperous and

There is also a revealing of God's will in providence Duties are preshe finds her service and her sanction. only a bundle of possibilities. If he all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." It is of the last importance to keep never exerts himself these possibilities Paul declares that "ye are complete of such a young evangelist. whole life and activity is to be shaped. him to a new hilltop, where the divine is worthy to be set before the follower did not prevent him from becoming a And once more the life of the will for another day becomes plain of Christ, for it is the only one that useful Christian.

Then all the aggressive missionary make it our own will, we need never with His teachings, practice and service of the Church, of all sorts, in be uncertain as to the way God would example. all lands, and at all times, is another have us take or the work he would form in which the life of the Church have us do. He may not show us the wholly dominated by Him; to be expresses itself. Where there is life whole way at one view - miles and possessed with His Spirit; to be actuthere must be growth. The life of miles ahead. Usually he shows us ated by the lofty motives that swayed the Church is the leaven which is to only a little way at a time, a single Him; to have His breadth of spiritual leaven the whole lump, and the step. "Thy word is a lamp unto my vision; to be urged forward by sublime Church filled with this life is like the feet, and a light unto my path," not a impulses of duty; to be eager, ready, mustard tree, whose branches spread sun to lighten a hemisphere, but a and capable of service for humanity, Church shall cause her in the end to its light about my feet, to make plain too noble of soul to bend to prejudices, the next step I should take.

Thus the life of the Church, has its But, after all, everything depends unjust judgment, too gentle to cause source in Christ, its agent producing upon the doing of the will of God, any to suffer needlessly, too pure to it in the Holy Spirit, its norm in the when it is made known to us. Most be stained by the enforced contact Holy Scripture, and its service in the of us know more of God's will than with the world, too devoted to be unworld. The duty of the Church is to we do. Nothing more surely hardens thoughtful of those who have need keep this life healthy and expansive. the heart than failing to obey the voice and to have put on, as God's elect, a This can be done by keeping near the of God when it is heard, or to take heart of compassion, kindness, humilsource, experiencing the Spirit's power, God's way when it has been pointed ity, meekness, long-suffering, forbearappropriating the Word of God, and out. On the other hand, nothing ing one another, and forgiving each actively seeking to render the service strengthens and uplifts the life more other, and, above all things, having than obedience to every minutest re- put on love, which is the bond of vealing of the divine will. He who perfectness. This d ne - this ideal wills to do Christ's will, so far as he secured and made real the Christian knows it, shall have more of that will will be complete in Christ, and the made known to him. Accept to-day's peace of Christ will rule in his heart. God has a plan for every life. We duty and do it with love and cheerfulare not here to drift through our few ness, and to-morrow's duty will be a work to do for God and for humanity. life which is unfolded to you, you will The true life is the one which finds be able at the end of all the days to enough we can form a fairly accurate what God's thought for it is and say, "I have finished the work which conception of their characters and

"Ye Are Complete in Him."

In an art gallery to which thousand f people are a tracted every year because of the richness and variety of the treasures presented for public view, there is a painting by a famous artist which was never finished. Death intervened and stayed the skilful hand, and the picture in the soul of the artist, which he had endeavored to reproduce on canvas, was never wholly spread before the eyes of men. The painter's course was finished, but his picture was not. The unfinished picture has its lessor

and message. Many men and women have filled up the measure of their days, but have left behind an incomplete life; and many are still in full career whose lives are inadequate, unsatisfactory, partial, and in a large measure failures. This may be because they are self-centered, concerned with the empty pleasures, the idle foibles, and the sorry deceits that make up their daily round, or because they have no place in their program of life for the deeper and more serious demands of human existence. But it is also true even when the nobler causes and obligations of brotherhood are recognized. It is not always upon the career of the selfish Sybarite that we are compelled to write "failure." Sometimes it is written in letters that burn across the life of one whose profession was loud, or whose deeds were good, or whose words were an inspiration to men, or whose life in the eyes of the world was without fault. St. Paul in his marvelous deliverance on charity makes it clear that the lack of the one essential thing involves condemnation. Gifts, talents, knowledge, influence, faith, good deeds, sacrifices, are as nothing - mere sounding brass and tinkling cymbals - without the inspiration and indorsement of that mysterious and profound affection which has its source in the heart of God the Father, and its supreme manifestation in the earthly career of God

But how many ignore the demands of the higher law and suppress the on our own hearts. No bitter, critical utterances of their better natures. Intolerant spirit ever can be happy or Deep-seated in the heart is the desire useful in the best sense, but he who and purpose to conform in the outward life to the law of God, but the in them and to be hopeful for them, blighting influence of the world makes is both an inspiration to them and the it always difficult and sometimes im- possessor within himself of one of the possible to give expression to these better and holier impulses. Here sin and peace. -- The Congregationalist. emerges, for "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin;' and the subjugation of the sarily follow.

"like Him" - Christlike in mind, spirit, sat down to talk to this feeble intellect, satisfies the soul and awakens any Life's providences are really burning response in the spiritual nature. Be- meet his young instructor on the this demand is just, for it is perfidious greeting I expect to hear will be the If we really wish to know the divine to profess allegiance to Jesus, and then unforgotten gratitude of my first con-

To be "complete in Him" is to be whether it be exalted or menial; to be too righteous to form or express an -Chris. Advocate.

The Beam and the Mote

It is difficult to see others as they really are. Yet by taking thought their abilities. It is still more difficult to see ourselves as we are. Probably if anyone among us could realize, if only for a moment, exactly how he appears to others, he would be greatly surprised. The character that we think we possess, the character which others think we possess, and the character which we really possess may be three very different things. It should be the aim of life to harmonize them with each other and with a fourth. the character which we ought to possess. The esson of the fact that it is almost impossible to understand of intimate friends, should promote a profound humility. How often it is with God by reconciliation through that we are credited with being far better than we are, with having a quality and a degree of power, wisdom, then life in all its relations will be and, especially, nobility of character, right. To rectify social relations with which in our own hearts we know that the heart renewed is futile, and to we have not attained.

it encourages and helps them to believe that we are what we seem, and if we honestly try to realize, as fully as they think we realize, our ideals. no hypocrisy is involved. But we know, even if they do not, how pitiof man are espoused and the relations fully we often fall of being what we are supposed to be. No one can realize this without being humbled, and with this lesson of humility must be joined a lesson of charity. What is true of us is true of others. If we need some allowance for our shortcomings, if we are as truly better, very often, than we seem to be, as we also sometimes are worse than we seem to be, so are our friends. The knowledge of our own weaknesses and faults should make us very gentle in judging them, and, if we suspect sometimes that they may not be as wholly admirable as they seem, we know of a surety that they often are far more deserving of love, trust, and even admiration tl an they appear.

Even if it were not, so to speak, a matter of prudence to be charitable to others, because of our own great need of similar allowance, the spirit of charity is to be cultivated assiduously because of its blessed reflex influence tries to see good in others, to believe most trustworthy sources of happiness

His First Convert.

convert. He was a mere lad himself when he gave his heart to Christ. No life is complete unless it partake Then he looked about for some one, Church. Here she finds her creed sented to us as we go on in the common of the fulness of God and is molded in the little community where he lived, upon the life and character of the whom he might win for the gospel. It her precept and her promise. Here Work is the law of life. A child is Saviour of men, "in whom dwelleth was a discouraging search. Everybody seemed to be beyond the reach

At length he bethought himself of a to secure this rich possession it is poor, half-witted boy, whom everybody necessary that the Christian become seemed to pass by. Day after day he deed, character, and life. This is a and at length the light seemed to

Ever afterwards when he would will for our life and are truly ready to lead a life that is wholly at variance vert "Thanky, Johnny." - Forward.

Duty for the hour is in the light of the hour. God takes care of consequences of such duty-doing.

A person who tells you the faults of others intends to tell others of your faults. Have a care how you listen.

Whatever is coming, there is but one way to meet it to go straight forward, to bear what is to be borne, and to do what is to be done.

Remember that in every quarrel the who has been the least to blame is generally the most ready to be reconciled. - Bowdler.

Not long ago it was found that a telegraphic cable, which had been laid on marshy ground, in Tonquin, had been destroyed by the inroads of tiny but persistent insects. The cable failed to carry the electric current in consequence of this insidious damage, and was entirely useless. The incident may suggest a reason for the failure of some of our prayers. The continual interruptions, mental and social, which rob men of their proper seasons of prayer, may result in communication between the soul and its Maker being suspended altogether.

It is indispensable that the work within keep pace with that without, for secret fellowship with God is far more vital than public service. Yea, the success of the latter is absolutely dependent on the mainte nance of the former. A powerful ministry springs from lonely fellowship with God, and depend upon it, our lives will be like Christ in exactly that same degree as we are with Christ, for only "the expulsive power of a new affection" can shatter self and free from sin and thraldom.-Hugh D.

To be right in relation with their neighbors men must be right in their own hearts. To be right in their own each other perfectly, even in the case hearts, they must be right with God. Hence the divine order is to be right Christ, then to be right in heart by the renewal of the Holy Spirit, and have the heart renewed implies that It is something to be grateful for our relations with God, ruptured by when we know that we seem to others sin, must be restored. This is the to illustrate high excellence, because Order of the Gospel. - Chris. Observer.

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