

## Our Young People

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### OUR TOPIC TALK.

MAY 31.—*Missions in the island world.* Isa. 42: 10-17; 60: 8, 9.

The broad outlook of this prophecy is remarkable. It was not natural for the Jews to think God would give the Gentiles equal favors with themselves, but this prophet had reached so high a conception of the divine goodness that he saw in the Messiah one who would bestow blessings even to the ends of the earth.

To spread abroad the knowledge of this truth is the duty of Christians. They may well catch some of the prophet's spirit. His characteristic note is one of joy, though the road to attainment may be through suffering. The message of salvation is one of gladness, and those who bear it are joyful in the discharge of their mission. Among the most delightful of the church's activities are its missionary enterprises. They should not be regarded as burdens, but as delightful privileges.

The ground of this joy, from the prophet's standpoint, is two-fold. First, the song is a new one. It is this new truth for which the nations have been waiting. They have not known anything of its like before, this is the one message that will meet their needs—"it will bring the blind by a way they knew not." Further, God will champion the cause. By His power obstacles will be beaten down and the message will be made triumphant. S.J.C.

### FAITHFULNESS GUARDED.

H. E. T.

In speaking to an early church, the word from God was that if faithful unto death they would be crowned, and we may be certain that what was crowned then will be crowned now. Faithfulness was the need of those early days, and we all agree that it is the great need of today. The church does not need first of all more members; it has all it can care for. Its first need is not for wealth; no doubt it could use more, but we agree that above these and above all other needs which may be named is that of faithfulness. Not more Christians, but more Christian; not more wealth, but wealth used in God's name; not more machinery, but machinery doing perfect work. Put your hand upon an evil or a weakness anywhere,

and then ask yourself if simple duty doing will not correct it all. If faithfulness, then be so important a virtue, there are a few things against which its possession must be guarded.

We should be faithful unto death in the face of all forms of *persecution*. It is true that the rack, the guillotine, the torch and the prison has no terror whatever for the Christian today, but let a man be faithful to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all the ways of his life and he will surely be beset by persecution. He will be considered peculiar, he will be called narrow, he will sometimes be unpopular, and sometimes walk alone. The lawyer may lose clients; the politician, votes; the editor, subscribers; the business man, custom; the clergyman, the more wealthy church. Sometimes our persecution will be the loss of dollars and cents, and there are many other forms of it, but amid them all comes the clear voice of our God: Be faithful and thou shalt be crowned. We ought to be thankful for all the crowned heads which are around us, for the martyrs are not all of the first century. You stand beside them in the shop, you touch them in the market place, you live with them beneath your roof—they are to be found everywhere. It costs something, but they are faithful.

Again, we must guard against thinking that faithfulness *does not pay*. Very often it looks as though it did not, because the schemer, the cheater, the worldly soul seem to prosper, but if so it appears it is simply because we are near-sighted, for we ought all to know that it is only the right which can win and faithfulness pays. Or it may be we have been the most faithful in Christian work, but we see so little result for it that we sit down to ask, "for what purpose this waste?" Perhaps we belong to a church whose standard is very high, and when we see a church at our side with a much lower standard, we are very certain to enquire why should I make all this sacrifice and all this consecration? How can it pay? Here is a young man who has sworn that though every one else forsakes Jesus Christ he will prove faithful, but when his companions go step by step into worldliness is it any wonder his eyes run along the way of the cross, only to ask: "What is the profit?" And here is a soul who has been taught about the great things God will do for a soul who dares to test him and give to him every power of his life, but by his side are men and women living upon a low plane of life, and so he says faithfulness doesn't pay and he remains poor and mean in his soul, he remains in this valley when he might be standing on the mountain top, looking God in the face. These temptations come to us all and our need will be to go aside from the crowd often times, and listen to the voice of our God and Father as he whispers to each one of us: "Child of mine—be faithful—it pays."

Yet again in order to be faithful we must guard against *putting success where we ought to put duty*. Our Master and Saviour never spoke to his disciples about success but he had much to say about faithfulness. His word was, "well done, good and faithful servant;" not successful servant. But in the face of all this we are inclined to think only of success. The preacher we say would be favored of

God if a conversion followed his ministry each week. Wouldn't that be a great teacher who each year led two of her scholars into the Kingdom of Heaven? Would not our prayer meeting be a wonderful one if only it were crowded to the doors? The reply to all this is No! No!! No!!! A preacher is a success when he is faithful; the Christian Endeavorer is a success who is faithful; faithful, crowds or no crowds; faithful, popular or unpopular; faithful, conversion or no conversion. God's command was not "be successful," but it was to do his will, and his will is that we do our duty.

O Christian worker, whom my words reach! God is looking for a soul like this: One who travels the path of duty, though many turn into the byways, one who keeps the standard high, though all others pull it down; one who keeps hitting his hard blows, though others hit feebly; one who is unmovable, though all around him become unstable. This is the faithfulness that the world needs, that God asks for, and that heaven crowns.



### JERUSALEM SOCIETY.

Our Young People's Society of Jerusalem has just completed its first year of Christian Endeavor work. It was organized by J. G. Perry, assisted by Rev. S. J. Perry, April 29th, 1902, with an enrollment of thirty-three members. We have increased in number and at the present time have a membership of forty-four, active and associate.

As we retrospect the past year, we feel like exclaiming with the Psalmist, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" for the way He has led us, kept us, guarded and blessed us, as a Society working and fighting for God, under the banner of King Jesus; yet we have to confess that we sometimes have shirked duty, and have not stood as valiant and courageous as true soldiers of Christ ought to do. We feel that we need a deeper consecration towards God on our part, and that there never was a greater need for the young people, as well as the older ones of our church, to work for the building up of Zion and the pulling down of the stronghold of Satan, than there is now, when there are so many young people in our community out of the ark of Christ, who know not the beauty, and true holiness of a life hid with Christ in God; we are hoping, praying, and working to that end, that we may bring them into companionship of our Society, and thereby into the blessed companionship of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ; as we labor to bring them to Christ, we feel evidently our insufficiency and weakness, and are sometimes fearful lest our labor is in vain, but we then remember God has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee;" to the weak, "be strong," and to the fearful, "be not afraid;" we also recollect that the "Battle is not to the strong," neither is the "race to the swift," but victory is promised only to the true and the faithful, who endure to the end. We have elected our officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, Mamie E. Beckett; Vice-President, Willie Selfridge; Recording Sec., Lena H. Beckett; Cor. Sec., G. Edward Inch; Treas., Lena I. Short. The chairmen of the

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