

## The Christian Life.

### OPEN THE DOOR.

Open the door: let in the air!  
The winds are sweet and the flowers  
are fair.

Joy is abroad in the world today;  
If our door is wide open, it may come  
this way.

Open the door!

Open the door: let in the sun!  
He hath a smile for every one.  
He hath made of the raindrops gold and  
gems.

He may change our tears to diadems.  
Open the door!

Open the door of the soul: let in  
Strong, pure thoughts, which will banish  
sin.

They will grow and bloom with a grace  
divine,

And their fruit shall be sweeter than  
that of the vine.

Open the door!

Open the door of the heart: let in  
Sympathy sweet for stranger and kin.  
It will make the halls of the heart so  
fair

That angels may enter unaware.

Open the door!

—Selected.

### TRUST AND OBEY.

"A Christian," Joseph Cook used to say, "is a man who trusts Jesus Christ as his Saviour and obeys him as his Lord." That is perhaps as perfect a definition as human language can give. It is clear. It is full. It is simple. It is possible of being put into immediate practice. Any man may at this moment, this "now," this "accepted time," begin to trust Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and begin to be a Christian.

Clear ideas on the subject of the religious life are important at all times. They are particularly important at this time when special services are in progress, and an effort is being made throughout all our Methodism to bring the people of our congregations to conviction and decision on the question of their personal relation to God. The more that question is stripped of all irrelevant features, the more it is simplified and reduced to its ultimate and essential terms, the more certain and the more lasting will be the results. What is wanted is to bring men and women to Christ, to bring them to real Christian character and conduct, and not merely to bring them into the church. It is a vital point this, the most vital point, indeed, whether we think of it in relation to the individuals themselves, and their standing with God, or in relation to their position in the church, and their future character and influence. Whatever the means employed, whatever the circumstances attendant, whatever the experiences, antecedent and coincident, the great thing, the essential thing, is that men and women accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, and obey him as Lord. Nothing short of that vital point will do. For nothing short of it can secure the end aimed at, the deliverance of the individual from the thralldom of sin, and the setting him at work as a child of God in that present and growing kingdom of God which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. We want additions to our churches, but we want them of really saved men and wo-

men, ready for service according to the will of him whom they have trusted as their Saviour. Our blessed Lord himself emphasized obedience as the test and touchstone of genuine religious life. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." It stands at the very entrance of the life divine. "If any man is willing to do his will he shall know of the doctrine."

We dwell on this because there is so much confusion on this point. There ought not to be, perhaps, but there is. Ideas have been associated with "getting religion" which do not belong to it. Many people are astray as to what it means. Christ came to "save his people from their sins." Note that language, to save his people from their sins. Except a man is saved from his sins, he is not saved by Christ at all. Repentance in the New Testament sense is literally a change of mind. That is the meaning of the Greek word. It is a change of mind about sin. It is not necessarily a matter of feeling, it is a matter of mind. When a man changes his mind about sin he turns from it. To be converted, in the New Testament sense, is to turn. That is the meaning of the Greek word. It is to turn away from sin and turn to God. Faith is trust, trust in a person and in that person's word. Trusting Christ, the burden of sin rolls off the weary shoulders; obeying Christ, the life becomes evermore like his own. Reader, have you repented?—that is, have you changed your mind about your sins? Have you been converted?—that is, have you turned—your back to your sins and your face to God? Have you faith in Christ?—that is, have you trusted him as your Saviour, and taken him as your Lord? If you have not, you can do it now—now, as you read these very lines. Will you?—*Christian Guardian.*

### STEADFASTNESS.

Steadfastness is a noble quality. No man can succeed in business without it. A wavering, vacillating person cannot be a good mechanic, a good teacher, a good merchant or physician. One who is so weak as to be turned aside by every difficulty will always be turning and never doing. A true patriot is unmovable. He is ready to follow the flag through the battle's storm. He stands firm in his loyalty to his country when his neighbors turn against it. Stability is an essential quality in a good friend. A true friend will stand firm in prosperity and adversity, and when all others fail he will clasp the hand of his friend with a warmer grasp and draw nearer to his heart. Never wavering, never doubting, never deserting, never playing the coward, he will stand firm to the end.

If one should be steadfast in business, how much more in religion. If one should be true to his country, how much more should he be true to Christ. If it be commendable to be ready always to defend the cause of a friend, how much more should we be ready to defend the cause of God. If loyalty to the flag is beautiful, loyalty to the cross is more beautiful.

"I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,  
Nor to defend His cause;  
Maintain the honor of His word,  
The glory of His cross."

Paul says, "Be ye steadfast, unmovable." The early disciples were steadfast. They were men of clear and strong convictions. They knew what they believed and why they believed. They knew where they stood and were fully satisfied that the ground beneath their feet was solid. They were neither ashamed nor afraid.

So let it be with us in this day. Let there be no wavering, no doubting, no cowardly shrinking from duty, no turning aside to please the world. It matters little what creed one holds, what profession he makes, what religious ceremonies he performs, what ecstatic experiences he relates, if when the stress of trial comes he wavers and falters, he is not a true disciple. Nothing can furnish a substitute for unflinching obedience. Stability of character and life is worth more than all whole burnt offerings and the fat of rams.—*Chris. Advocate.*

### The Greatest Weakness of the Church.

During the week of prayer in England the Rev. Archibald G. Brown made an earnest address on "The church, her glory, mission and power," in which he maintains that "the mission of the church is not to erect stately buildings; not to be leaders in political affairs; not to provide secular education, far less amusement, for the people; it is to bear witness to a living Christ; to seek to pluck men as brands from the burning; and that her power lies in proclaiming "the gospel without any human addenda," in preaching "the truth, the whole truth, without human adornings, and simple dependence upon the Holy Ghost.

"I believe the greatest weakness of the church today is her accursed worldliness. What is not done by those who bear the name of Jesus Christ now? What are not some of our sanctuaries coming to? As a minister of the gospel, I say it with the deepest regret, my sorrowful conviction is this, that some ministers are leading in these things. I long for the time when the church shall take her proper place, and her place is 'outside the camp, bearing his reproach.' While we have church members who sit at the Lord's table on Sunday, and go to the theatre on Monday, without solemn protest from the minister in his pulpit; whilst the world is creeping more and more into our congregations, and the clear line of demarkation between Christ and Belial is gradually being fleeced, how can the church improve? We shall never win people by meeting the world. May we have grace to take our place by the crucified Christ. The world does not like him more than it did 1850 years ago. Be true to him and the world will not like you any more than it did Christ. Stand by Christ and say to the godless world: 'As you treat my Saviour, so you shall treat me. I will not accept your smiles whilst you frown on my Redeemer. If you spit in his face it is as if you spat in mine, for I am one with my Lord and Master.'

### COURAGE.

No doubt Peter was a brave man. When the enemy approached in the night to lay violent hands on his Master, Peter drew a sword and began to defend Him. He was ready to fight. If it had been a case to be determined by carnal weapons who shall say that Peter would not have made his word good and fought to the death? But when it became a question of higher courage Peter was not equal to the occasion. He quailed be-

fore the question of a servant maid. There are thousands who are ready to fight with carnal weapons. They are not cowards in that kind of warfare. They would stand to the last. Let them be heated with anger, revenge, or some other violent passion, and they are ready, not only to spill the blood of their foes, but to spill their own blood also. But they are not so well supplied with that courage which leads one to lose all rather than do wrong, to die rather than turn aside from the path of duty. Lord, evermore give us this courage!

**WEAK LUNGS.**—Mr. Frank Jennings, Coldwater, Ont., says: "I was troubled for some time with sore throat and weak lungs, but Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cured me when other remedies failed. Price 25c."

Some men are afraid of being too religious. What we need to-day is men who believe deep down in their souls what they profess.

*By Medicine Life May Be Prolonged.*—So wrote Shakespeare nearly three hundred years ago. It is so to-day. Medicine will prolong life, but be sure of the qualities of the medicine. Life is prolonged by keeping the body free from disease. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil used internally will cure coughs and colds, eradicate asthma, overcome croup and give strength to the respiratory organs. Give it a trial.

The security of a nation lies in the integrity of the citizens. Only as the people rise in intelligence and virtue and love of equity will the nation rise in power.

*An End to Bilious Headache.*—Biliousness, which is caused by excessive bile in the stomach, has a marked effect upon the nerves, and often manifests itself by severe headache. This is the most distressing headache one can have. There are headaches from cold, from fever, and from other causes, but the most excruciating of all is the bilious headache. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will cure it—cure it almost immediately. It will disappear as soon as the Pills operate. There is nothing surer in the treatment of bilious headache.

The gold in the quartz is valuable, but the gold purified by fire is more valuable. The ordeal of suffering makes the good more beautiful. It is the smelting of the ore.

*Laxa-Liver Pills* are easy acting, non-irritating and purely vegetable. They are the most effective remedy known for constipation, Dyspepsia, biliousness and sick headache. Price 25c.

We will not rise above our ideals. These should be kept pure, otherwise they will be a hindrance. A shattered ideal furnishes no stimulus to a handicapped ambition.

Free and easy expectoration immediately relieves and frees the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm, and a medicine that promotes this is the best medicine to use for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all affections of the throat and chest. This is precisely what Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup is a specific for, and wherever used it has given unbounded satisfaction. Children like it because it is pleasant, adults like it because it relieves and cures the disease.