

The Christian Life.

LIFE.

I am so tired, and the way has been so long,
I tried to sing, but oftentimes, the song
Died on my lips.

I am so tired, and the way has been so hard;
I tried to do my best; I tried to trust in God.
But I was weak.

I am so tired, and the way has been so dark;
I tried to see the right, but failures mark
My wandering steps.

I am so tired, and the way—but oh, the light
That floods my path now, makes the end so bright.
That I can rest.

—Chris. Observer.



THE PASSING OF THE FAMILY ALTAR.

BY THE REV. WILLIAM J. HAMPTON.

Is the home life of today pervaded with the same Christian atmosphere as it once was, or has the commercial spirit of the twentieth century crowded out quite largely the church life in the home? We believe this is a serious question, and one which affects largely the spiritual tone of the church. We recall distinctly the home life several years ago. All the children knew father's wishes, and knew, too, that he wanted them respected. Father wanted none of the children late at prayers, so all were downstairs early in the morning ready for the family devotions. What a familiar picture! Father seated in his armchair, the well-thumbed Bible open. Close by sits mother and the children. Reverently and tenderly the Holy Scriptures are read, then all kneel, while the father, the priest in the home, invokes God's blessing on home and children. After prayers are offered all are seated at the table, every head is bowed while the father asks the blessing on the food. How happy and cheerful everybody seems! Then come the separations for the day, each one to his work. Evening repeats the scene. The hours of the evening are enlivened by music, conversation, reading books and current literature. Then singing, prayers, and good nights, and the day was spent. This was church life in the home. But how different today! Home life today is almost wholly without God. In the city it has become practically a fashionable boarding house; an apparent disposition on the part of husband and wife to agree to board together. Husband's thoughts engrossed in business, lodges, and clubs, while the wife is immersed in dresses, social functions and club life. The care of the children is handed over to a paid nurse girl. The modern home is run something after this fashion—Breakfast time: One by one the members of the household drop into the dining room, and seat themselves at the table. No family altar. No blessing at the table. No thought of God. It is rumored that it has become unpopular and unfashionable to have the blessing asked at the table in the up-to-date home. A writer says of a father, "I have no home any more; my children have turned it into

a boarding house." Here apparently was a yearning on the part of the father for the return of that home life of which he had once had a taste.

We learn today that young men are drifting away from the church as never before. The non-Christian influence of home life may have something to do with it. A young man walled about with family prayers from childhood will have a safeguard about him through which it will be difficult wholly to break. A thousand influences and sacred memories will hold back when sorely tempted, and will carry his thought Godward. We have in this country today something like nineteen million Protestant church members, and, counting five persons to every home, some four million Christian homes. It is estimated that only one Christian home in eight has a family altar, and most of us will agree from observation that that estimate is sufficiently high. Place these Christian homes in a row, and we would pass through three million five hundred thousand homes before we would hear the sound of a father's voice at a family altar, and from these homes one hundred and fifty thousand young men, having reached twenty-one, go out annually, never having heard a parent's voice in prayer at a family altar.

But perhaps conditions are no worse than they used to be. We do not wish to pose as a pessimist. But we fear the commercial spirit of the city and the worldly atmosphere which predominates church life and chills our church altars have relegated real heartfelt piety and spiritual fervor to an inferior position.

The following beautiful scene was enacted in a Christian home. There is a family of eight children, all Christians but the youngest, still a child. On a recent Sabbath evening the family gathered together for family prayers. The Bible was opened, and the father read the chapter which told about Absalom's defeat and death, and the tidings brought to King David, and the wail of grief of the broken-hearted father over the death of the wicked son. Then he knelt in prayer and offered a touching fervent prayer. As the result of that service held in that Christian home—for it was nothing short of that—a man once a schoolteacher, was converted, and the next Sabbath presented himself at the altar of the church and the writer received him in the church on probation. Is it not possible for this to be duplicated in every Christian church in our country? Instead of the passing of the family altar, may there be a return to the church life in the home! May the broken family altars be set up again! If this be done we believe a different spiritual atmosphere will prevail in all our Christian homes, the chill will be removed from many a prayer meeting, and the altars of the church will soon feel the effect, and be baptized with the tears of penitents coming home to God. —Chris. Advocate.



Time has Tested it.—Time tests all things, that which is worthy lives; that which is inimical to man's welfare perishes. Time has proved Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. From a few thousand bottles in the early days of its manufacture the demand has risen so that now the production is running into the hundreds of thousands of bottles. What is so eagerly sought for must be good.

ETERNAL LIFE.

"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent." This definition of eternal life has been before the world for nineteen hundred years. The mission of Jesus Christ on earth was to give men life. "I am come," He said, "that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly." That by this He meant life, literal, spiritual, and eternal life, is clear from the teachings of Scripture.

Immortality is the gift of God, who is infinite, eternal, as well as unchangeable. It is revealed to man in all its fullness and truth through Christ. "As the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself." "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in the which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," said Christ. "I am the Resurrection and the Life." "I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, amen: and have the keys of hell and death."

But some will say, "How are the dead raised up; and with what body do they come?" The inspired apostle answers, "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him." A mystery is revealed. "This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, and then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." The redeemed soul shall cry out in triumph, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Upon this joyous Easter, this resurrection morn of Him who was delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification, may we put off the old man Adam and put on the new man Christ Jesus. May we be dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Christ our Lord. May we keep our eye of faith fixed upon Him, and may our conversation be "in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body that it may be like unto His glorious body."

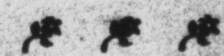
The resurrection of Christ gives us a picture of what we shall be. There was a growth in the apprehension of the resurrection of Christ upon the part of the disciples. First they viewed it simply as an essential to Christ, as something necessary to establish His claims. Then they viewed it as a prophecy and pledge of their resurrection. So we should let the resurrection of Christ grow upon us, until we see all that is in it. We should learn from it that death does not mean extinction or annihilation. The resurrected Christ is the sheaf of first fruits and the security of the coming harvest. —Lutheran Observer.

MY HOPE.

You ask me what my hope is. It is that Christ died for my sins, in my stead, in my place, and therefore I can enter into life eternal. You ask Paul what his hope was. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture." This is the hope in which died all the glorious martyrs of old, in which all

who have entered Heaven's gate have found their only comfort.

Take that doctrine of substitution out of the Bible and my hope is lost. With the law, without Christ, we are undone. The law we have broken and it can only hang over our head the sharp sword of justice. Even if we could keep it from this moment, there remains the unforgiven past. "Without shedding of blood there is no remission." —D. L. Moody.



DO IT NOW.

On the desk of a humble clerk in one of our offices this little card can be seen, "Do it now." The owner of that desk found that she was in the habit of deferring things and losing sight of them afterwards, and then getting into confusion and sometimes disaster, and so she wisely put that reminder there, and she says it has saved her infinite trouble. Oh, let us do it now, and this very hour, upon our knees settle forever the great decision which the Holy Spirit is pressing upon our hearts, even as we read these lines.



Thousands Acquiring the Dope Habit

The dope habit is being acquired by thousands of Canadians through using so-called cures for Catarrh containing an excessive amount of alcohol and other dangerous drugs. Doctors claim there is only one safe and certain cure for Catarrh—fragrant healing Catarrhzone which cures by medicated vapor that is breathed direct to the seat of the disease. The balsamic vapor of Catarrhzone kills the germs, heals sore spots, stops droppings in the throat, keeps the nose clear and permanently eradicates every trace of catarrh from the system. Catarrhzone can't fail; it's guaranteed. Two months' treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c.

The Bible is the handbook of life and the guidebook to heaven. The essence of the wisdom of the ages is concentrated in it, and it will make a man of the reader who reads it aright.

Severe colds are easily cured by the use of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, a medicine of extraordinary penetrating and healing properties. It is acknowledged by those who have used it as being the best medicine sold for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all affections of the throat and chest. Its agreeableness to the taste makes it a favorite with ladies and children.

How long does anyone suppose it takes to read a book of the Bible? Some of them can be read in a few minutes; many a one can be read in an hour; and there are very few that could not be comfortably overtaken in a couple of hours. Anyone might read through a book of the Bible on a Sunday afternoon or evening.

At the First Sign of a cramp or other pain in the bowels take Perry Davis' Painkiller in hot water, sweetened and you have mastered the difficulty. There is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'. 25 and 50c.

As you open the Bible, hush! for God is here—"This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Its Power Grows with Age.—How many medicines loudly blazoned as panaceas for all human ills have come and gone since Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil was first put upon the market? Yet it remains, doing more good to humanity than many a preparation more highly vaunted and extending its virtues wider and wider and in a larger circle every year. It is the medicine of the masses.