

HOME RELIGION.

There is no greater need today than a quickening in home religion. It is beyond question sadly true that we are now reaping all over our land the painful result of irreligious home life. It is evident in all social, domestic and other crimes which shame us. There is no safeguard of our civilization, of the state or of the church which is nearly so strong as that which godly homes furnish.

When unbelief or evil dominate here the floodgates of iniquity are open, and all wrong finds an ally. There is no institution in the world that can do or undo the wrong in equal measure with the home. The church is a great sufferer at the hearthstone today. It seems an uneven task to teach children in the Sunday school, when it is not supplemented by prayer and example in the home.

The responsibility of parents—not of one, but of both—is very grave here. No condition or pretext can excuse us. It is easier to live right than wrong, to trust and obey God rather than the world, the flesh and the Devil, and the difference in the result is the difference between light and darkness. God's Word puts a distinct mark upon the Christian and un-Christian home.

There is no culture, or display of wealth, no earthly comfort that can substitute the family altar. A prayerless home is like a house without a roof, wholly incomplete. There is no assured hope for the home as long as it is prayerless. On the other hand, a family gathered about the altar of prayer in the morning, the father reading the Word of God—or the mother, in his absence or refusal—and then commending all to God for the day, this is a most forceful example and testimony and one of the most beautiful pictures of heaven ever witnessed on earth.

After that you may have *ornaments* and splendor, put on diamonds and costly garments if you can, but without God's altar in the house they are mockery and a vain show. The merciful God increase the number of quiet Christian homes!—*Rev. Dr. Rhodes.*

PERSONAL WORK.

Sometimes the least bit of influence exerted may mean the winning of a soul.

While traveling in the west recently, I met the Chief Justice of one of the Western States, and learned the story of his conversion. The pastor of one of the churches, just beginning his pastorate in the city where the judge lived, had heard that he was not a Christian and felt impelled to write him a letter, which was no sooner written than it was destroyed, because he felt that he could have little influence with so prominent a man; but his wife insisted that he should write another letter and that they two should pray about it. The letter was written, a leaflet by Mr. Spurgeon, entitled "All of Grace," was put into it, and, after prayer, it was sent away by a messenger. In less than an hour the messenger returned with a letter from the Chief Justice saying, "I have been waiting for this letter for 20 years. I had not finished reading it before I decided to give myself to Jesus Christ. If some one had written to me 20 years ago I could have been won to Him." This prominent lawyer told me that from the day of his conversion he had never allowed anyone to come into his presence and talk for ten minutes upon any subject without presenting to

him the name of Jesus Christ, and said he, "I have never been rebuffed."—*Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D. D.*

GOOD BOOKS.

"You read all the new books, did you say? Then you have read 'Genesis,' the only real new book there ever was. Oh, haven't you? Then perhaps you have read that very old book, 'Job.' Haven't you? Oh, it is fine! It is suggestive of 'Faust,' but much better, I think.

"Perhaps you like books of travel. Have you ever read 'The Journeys of Abraham,' or 'The Trip of the Israelites,' or 'The Voyages of Paul?' No?

"Do you like biographies of successful men? Have you read 'The Life of Joseph,' or 'The Life and Death of Moses, the Great Organizer,' or 'The Life of the Great Soldier, Joshua?' You haven't? May be you like stories. Have you ever read that wonderful story of Gideon and the Midianites, or the story of the fall of Jericho? Oh, that's thrilling! The story of Ruth is very beautiful. Have you read it? So, also, is the story of Esther. Or, did you ever read that marvelous story of Daniel and the three kings?

"Have you ever read that sweetest story ever told, the story of the Babe at Bethlehem; or the saddest of all stories, the story of Calvary; or that most gloriously triumphant story the world has ever read, the 'First Easter Morn'?"

ASHAMED OF JESUS.

One is reminded of the beautiful girl who had become ashamed of her mother's presence because that mother's face was scarred and her form disfigured in a most repulsive way. Patiently the mother suffered in silence until one day an old family friend took the daughter aside and asked her if she knew what caused that mother's disfigurement. And then she told the wondering and humbled girl how when she was a helpless babe, that mother snatched her from the flames, covered her with her own body, smothered the fire before it harmed her, but herself got the devouring blaze and was only saved from death with the marks of the fire upon her face and form for life. Do you suppose that daughter would have dared again to be ashamed of her mother's scars? Shame on the person that would blush because of our Saviour's precious blood.

"Ashamed of Jesus, yes we may, When we've no guilt to wash away, No fears to hush, no good to crave No tears to wipe, no soul to save."

BEGIN AT ONCE.

We mean, begin to do something for Christ. Many young Christians seem to be waiting for some great opportunity. The great opportunity will never come unless you embrace the smaller. Do the smaller duties, like confessing Christ publicly, offering public prayer if opportunity is presented, or speaking a word personally to some unsaved friend.

J. Hudson Taylor tells of a young Christian, who had received Christ as his Saviour, but who said to the missionary that he would wait until he learned more about Him before making a public profession.

"Well," said Mr. Taylor, "I have a question to ask you, When you light a candle, do you light it to make the candle more comfortable?"

"Certainly not," said the other, "but in order that it may give more light."

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"When it is half burnt down do you expect that it will first become useful?"
"No, as soon as I light it."
"Very well," said the missionary, promptly; "go thou and do likewise; begin at once."

WHITER THAN SNOW.

"Once, when I was paying parochial calls, and dropped in on a washerwoman, who had just got out a line of clothes, I congratulated my friend because they looked so white. So much encouraged by her pastor's kind words, she asked him to have a cup of tea, and we sat down.

"While we were taking the tea the sky clouded, and there was a snow-storm; and as I came out the snow lay everywhere, and I said to her: 'Your washing does not look quite so clean as it did.'

"Ah," she said, 'the washing is right enough; but what can stand against God Almighty's white?'

"So you may think that you are clean, because you have never seen God. When you see God, your holiest day will seem to be imperfect; you will abhor yourself, and repent in dust and ashes, and you will need to say: 'Forgive me my debts as I forgive my debtors.'"

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