

The Christian Life.

ENOUGH.

Lord give me help today!
So at the dawn I pray,
Not knowing what may be 'twixt morn
and night;
And ever, hour by hour,
The needed gift of power
Comes at my prayer; the dark is chang-
ed to light.

O Lord, I am afraid!
So calls my soul, dismayed
When the fierce sea, storm-lashed, is
raging round;
But presently the calm
Of some sweet evening psalm
Fills my whole being with its soothing
sound.

O Lord, it is enough!
Be my life smooth or rough,
Thou art beside me, Thou wilt succor
me;
Grant Thou me help each day.
Thou art my strength and stay,
Living or dying, I am safe with Thee!
—Marianne Farningham, in *Christian
World*.

BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is full of lessons. Every part of the picture is a teacher of truth. The needy man, the unconcerned or preoccupied priest and Levites, the compassionate and helpful Samaritan—these are types that are to be found in the presence of helpless need today. The question of the lawyer, "And who is my neighbor?" and the picture answer of Jesus, with its "Go thou and do likewise" are full of trenchant teaching on missionary work both at home and abroad.

"Who is my neighbor" and "What does he need?" are questions of the hour in Christian thought and purpose. Sociology is the subject, but the Good Samaritan brought down to date is the solution. The first point that sticks out of the parable in every part is that nearness of itself does not constitute neighborliness. The priest and Levite were near enough to the man in need, for the former saw and avoided, and the other saw and approached, but neither of them made nearness neighborliness. If you were asked, "Who is your neighbor?" and you should say, "The man who lives next door," the mere fact of his living near you would not of itself constitute the relation according to this parable of Christ. We must have more than proximity; indeed remoteness is no barrier to neighborliness when need and not nearness is the claim for its call and manifestation.

Need should make us neighbors. Here is where both priest and Levite failed to keep the law, and the Samaritan grandly fulfilled it. Not always a man fallen among thieves, but always a need makes neighborliness possible. In the parable need laughed at difference of nation and centuries of prejudice and hatred, and brought a Samaritan to the side of a wounded and helpless Jew, and bound them into a brotherhood which knew nothing of Jerusalem or Gerizim, but only of a law which said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Need should be the summons to the salvation of a lost world that servants of Christ should never silence.

That voice reaches across ocean and continents, and calls, "Come over and help us." To avoid that summons, or to neglect it when we hear, is playing the priest and the Levite with as little hope of the Lord's commendation as they received in the parable.

The good Samaritan is a type of which the world has none too many copies. The Church of Christ needs nothing so much to advance its influence as a membership of Good Samaritans; compassion, contact, care, concern and cash—these are the keys to the solution of many a problem that confronts us on the Jericho road to the New Jerusalem. Being a neighbor costs something, but it pays for the outlay. Home missions are as good an investment in the back street of your town, or the tough ward of your city, as on the plains or in the wilds of the west. The opportunity to be a home missionary is not far from the doorstep of your own dwelling, and your commission need not be signed by a Domestic Missionary Secretary before you can begin work. Christians should be missionaries as well as give or pray for missions.

The beauty about the parable of the Good Samaritan is its practical and simple truth. Any one who has the heart to do will find the opportunity at every turn. The tender heart sees farther and deeper than the theological or theoretical programme for bettering the condition of the helpless. Being neighborly is the secret of doing neighborly. Sin separates men, salvation brings them together. Caste classifies men. Christ combines them into brotherhood. The Good Samaritan is a good type for Christian service, both in its spirit, its range, its methods, and its performance. The Good Samaritan was a look-out committee, a social committee, a sick committee, a hospital committee, a good citizenship committee, a brotherhood committee; and if we had all the facts in the story, all the other committees combined in his own personality. He had not learned the delegating of Christian duty to an appropriate committee, and the passing by on the other side. We hope, fellow Christians, that we may never learn that lesson either.
—Chris. *Intelligencer*.

THE NOBLEST CALLING.

Am I a preacher because it is a very pleasant vocation? In it I have time to read good books, and associate with the best people in the world. Here I am my own master.

Or have I drifted into the ministry because I can here make a good living and when I am old the church will in some measure care for me? Am I here to display scholarship and cause the people to speak of me as one of the age? Am I here to thrill the people with what is known as a pleasing manner, and thus have people speak of me as one who greatly entertains them when I preach? A thousand times no!

These are not the reasons why any good preacher is in his pulpit; oh, no! Out there before him in his congregation and around him are people for whom Jesus died. They must be saved or lost. The sincere preacher is called of God to preach the Gospel, and to do it with the confidence of a man who be-

lieves that God has stamped upon his soul the conviction, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel of Christ."

All of us having waited before God until we are perfectly satisfied of our being called of God to give up all and go preach, let us be true to the call, and at once *give up all and preach*. Yes preach. Oh, what grandeur in real preaching! The preacher, for days alone in his study during the week in prayer and deep meditation, comes forth on the Sabbath filled to the full with great truths concerning a living God, a real Christ, a blessed religion, a tried Comforter, a happy heaven, a sad hell. Let him strike from the heart to the heart. Banish his manuscript. Put himself in the hands of God. "Rely upon the Holy Ghost for help. Believe fully what he preaches. The pulpit is no place for the doubter preaching his doubts. If he has any, let him settle them out of his pulpit. In all his services let him give the sinner an opportunity to be saved by inviting him to come at once to Jesus Christ.—Chris. *Advocate*.

WAVERING.

Steadfastness is a cardinal virtue. But many waver in their religious life. They appear to serve God for a time, and then they drop out of the procession and serve another master. They are one thing at church and altogether something else at home. They are one thing in prayer meeting and a very different thing in a political meeting. They are pious on Sunday and ungodly on Monday. They are kind and gentle and amiable in the church, but sour and morose at home. They are the soul of honesty and sincerity in the prayer meeting, but scheming and deceitful in the political meeting.

Why are some men so good to their neighbors, and so cruel and harsh with their own children? Some reverse this order. They are kindness itself to their own children, and as cross as a bear robbed of her cubs with the children of their neighbors. Why do professing Christians break down at some point in life? Why are they not always one thing? The reason is found in the half-heartedness of their religion. The secret of Simon Peter's dreadful breakdown is found in this: He "followed afar off." If Peter had drawn near to Jesus in the garden when His enemies laid hands on Him, and walked close by His side all the way to the house of the high priest, we may be sure he would not have wavered as he did. Feeling the touch of the Saviour's hand, hearing the whispers of His lips, walking in the atmosphere of His presence, Peter would not have encountered the tempters that overwhelmed him, and if he had he would not have denied his Lord.

A "RARE" SIN.

I asked a question some years ago of a person whom I believed to be one of the most covetous individuals in my acquaintance, and I received from him a singular reply.

I said: "How was it that St. Francis de Sales, who was an eminent confessor to whom persons went in the Romish Church to confess their sins, found that persons confessed to him in private all sorts of horrible sins, such as adultery, drunkenness, and murder, but never had one person confessed the sin of covetousness?"

I asked this friend whether he could tell me why it was, and he made me

this answer, which certainly did take me rather aback.

He said: "I suppose it is because the sin is so extremely rare."

Blind soul! I told him that, on the other hand, I feared the sin was so very common that people did not know when they were covetous, and the man who was most covetous of all was the last person to suspect himself of it.—Chas. H. Spurgeon.

FAR BETTER.

This is a good world. We have reason to be thankful that we have had an opportunity to sojourn here for a season. The knowledge of this planet which we have gained and the experiences we have had here will stand us in good stead when we shall enter upon our new term of service above the stars. This life is good. With all its sorrows and temptations this life is sweet. We may all accomplish something in this life. But there is another world, and it is far better. There is another life, and it is far better. Tomorrow is better than today. Heaven is better than earth. Eternity is better than time. To depart and be with Christ is far better.

The Evils of Constipation

Well known, and the next best thing is to know a reliable cure. Mrs. W. Eddles, of Stony Mountain, Man., says: "Dr. Hamilton's Pills are just the thing. They go right to work at once. I use only Dr. Hamilton's Pills." Price 25c. per box.

A grain of appetite will outweigh a ton of reason.

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Satan is always in sympathy with the self-satisfied man.—*Unidentified*.

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The world needs a friend more than a figure in history.

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A smile will kill more microbes than any medicine.