

The Christian Life.

THE BEST WE HAVE.

Christ wants the best. He, in the far-off ages,

Once claimed the firstling of the flock,
the finest of the wheat;
And still He asks His own with gentlest pleading

To lay their highest hopes and brightest talents at His feet.

He'll not forget the feeblest service, humblest love.

He only asks that of our store we give Him

The best we have.

Christ gives the best. He takes the hearts we offer

And fills them with His glorious beauty, joy and peace.

And in His service we are growing stronger.

The calls to grand achievement still increase.

The richest gifts for us on earth, or in heaven above,

Are hid in Christ. In Jesus we receive

The best we have.

And is our best too much? O friends, let us remember

How once our Lord poured out His soul for us,

And in the prime of His mysterious manhood

Gave up His precious life upon the cross!

The Lord of lords, by whom the worlds were made,

Through bitter grief and tears gave us

The best we have.

THE READY MAN.

One prominent characteristic of the Christian is readiness. In this he is distinguished from all others. He is ready to receive any order from his Lord, and to obey. Standing like a loyal soldier who thoroughly believes and confides in his leader, he looks up into the face of his Lord and says, "What wilt Thou have me to do."

With other men it is not so. They have chosen to have their own will. They, too, hear the voice of the Lord, and, for the most part, they acknowledge his authority, but they protest that they are not ready. When Felix heard Paul reason concerning righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, the voice of God touched his heart and he trembled, but he was not ready to forsake his sins. Felix dismissed the apostle with a patronizing promise that when he should find a convenient season he would call for him. Amazing audacity! Puny man presumes to require the Almighty to await his convenience!

Few men are ready to repent and turn to God when first they hear the call. The blind are not ready to receive their sight. The lame are not ready to receive strength to walk. Lepers are not ready to be cleansed. Sinners are not ready to be plucked as brands from the burning. All this because they are not ready to yield to the authority of their rightful Master.

A school teacher in the west tells of an incorrigible scholar who was so wilful and disobedient as to be a constant menace to the order and discipline of the school. At last the teacher felt called to bring the question of authority

to a definite and sharp issue. Drawing a circle with chalk on the floor she placed the stubborn and rebellious child within that small territory, giving her to understand that she could not cross the boundary line until she was ready to submit and obey. It was a severe test of nerve power and will power. When the weary body began to droop the teacher looked upon her with an eye of pity and compassion, and, desiring earnestly to make the way as easy as possible, she asked the child whether she was not ready to obey. Without speaking a word, with compressed lips and defiant look, she gave her teacher to understand that her mind was made up to hold out to the end.

Her heart was fully set to have her own way. Hour after hour passed away and the teacher went about her work. But at last the stubborn heart yielded, and, touching her teacher gently on the arm, and laying her weary head on her shoulder, with a sigh that came from the bottom of her heart, she said, "I am ready." The struggle was a hard and long one. It was a struggle with herself rather than with her teacher. But when it was over she became one of the most obedient and high-minded scholars in the school.

So we often try the patience of our Divine Master. He calls us, pleads with us, pities us, and makes the way easy for us. But with compressed lips and defiant look we give him to understand in words that we have made up our minds not to yield. "The heart of the sons of men are fully set in them." We will have our own way. But when the struggle is over, and we yield to our Lord, henceforth we are ready to hear his dictates and obey. Herein is a good test of faith. If we are not ready to do whatsoever he commands we have good reason to doubt the thoroughness of our conversion and the genuineness of our religion. By this test many a religious profession is found to be nothing more than a hollow pretense. The true Christian is always ready to hear what Christ will say. The soldier stands ready to follow his leader whithersoever he may lead; ready to march, ready to go into battle, ready to endure hardness, ready to die in the discharge of duty.

There is one consideration which should aid us in coming to this happy state of mind. Our Leader is perfectly competent and perfectly safe. The soldier holds himself in readiness to hear the orders of his commander and obey them even when he knows that he is human and liable to err. In some cases he knows that his superior officer is utterly incompetent and almost sure to blunder. Those are grand lines in which Tennyson sings, "The Charge of the Light Brigade:"

"Forward the Light Brigade!"

Was there a man dismayed?

Not though the soldiers knew

Some one had blundered.

Theirs not to make reply,

Theirs not to reason why,

Theirs but to do and die.

Into the jaws of death

Rode the six hundred!"

But Tennyson could not sing in such a strain concerning our army or our Leader. He never blundered. He cannot blunder. He is a safe Leader. Therefore his followers are ready.—*New York Advocate.*

EFFECTIVE PREACHING.

There are some essential characteristics of what can properly be called effective preaching. Other things are contributory, and serve to make the work of the preacher easier; but they are not essential.

1. Effective preaching is gospel preaching. The true minister sustains a specific relation to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our theory is, that he is divinely called, for a specific purpose. God wants him as his servant to do a particular work for him. He is a herald, a mouth-piece. His message is given him. The burden of the Lord is committed to him, and he goes forth under the two-fold commission to "preach the preaching" that the Lord gives him, and to do so in all the world. Whenever he goes outside of this message to preach something else, he ceases to be the minister of God. Preaching the gospel he must do effective work, for the word of the Lord does not return void. What he speaks to the people is to be backed up by "Thus saith the Lord."

2. To be an effective preacher the minister must be a gospel preacher all the time. There is no liberty granted him to preach something else during certain months in the year, and return to the gospel message at other seasons. It may be agreeable to him to seek for themes of sermons in the newspapers; to discourse on affairs of government, of philosophy and science; but these are foreign to his commission. From January to January he is bidden to preach the gospel and to teach those things which have to do with moral and spiritual life of the soul. At all times and in all places he is so preach that men will recognize him as a man of the Bible.

3. His preaching must also be full of Christ. The redemptive work of Christ is the very marrow of the gospel. The application of that work to the soul is the one needful thing. If our preaching is not Christo-centric it will lack power. But the more we preach Christ the more souls will we be instrumental in saving, the more Christ-like characters will we develop, and these are the two highest ideal ends of all true preaching.

4. Preaching to be effective must be backed by the Holy Spirit. Even the apostles could do but little effective work until they were filled with the Spirit, and their lips were touched and their souls stirred by the fire of the Spirit. Then there will be divine earnestness, and a holy enthusiasm and ambition to win souls for Christ.

5. Effective preaching must deal much in doctrine, to the end that there may be holy lives. Doctrine is the very basis of sound preaching. It really comes first. Religion is first a doctrine; but it is this that it may be a life. Too much of our best preaching is lost because it is denied in the life of the church.—*Advocate.*

HOW TO WALK.

REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN.

You have sometimes seen the top of a wall covered with mortar, and in the mortar pieces of glass are stuck all the way along, so as to prevent boys from climbing and going along. You have also seen a cat walk along the top of that wall. That was walking "circumspectly." How it picked its way! With what carefulness it put down the foot every time. It made progress by walking very carefully, and looking for each

place where the foot was to be put among those pieces of glass.

You and I have to walk like that, if we are going to do anything for God in the world. You can't go through a single day carelessly and let things go as they will. Every step must be watched. Every moment must be held as sacred for God, and we are ever to live in the power of the thought that we may miss an opportunity. We must take every moment as an opportunity that needs watching and buying up carefully. We must walk circumspectly.

A Family Necessity

Is a remedy capable of affording immediate relief to the hundred and one ailments that constantly arise. It may be a cold, perhaps toothache, neuralgia, pain in the back—use Nerviline, it's more penetrating, pain subduing and powerful than any other agent. Nerviline is at least five times stronger than ordinary remedies and it's worth in any household can't be over-estimated. For man or beast Nerviline is a panacea for all pain and costs only 25c. per bottle. Buy Nerviline to-day.

The name of Christ is not so much written on history as ploughed into history. The furrows of this ploughing are centuries long, and the harvests from these furrows are the Bread of Life.—*Emerson.*

As fire spreads in dry grass, so does an inflammation in the throat grow down into the lungs. Deal promptly with a cold, as with a fire, and when you begin to cough, use Allen's Lung Balsam.

Sure Regulators.—Mandrake and Dandelion are known to exert a powerful influence on the liver and kidneys, restoring them to healthful action, inducing a regular flow of the secretions and imparting to the organs complete power to perform their functions. These valuable ingredients enter into the composition of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, and serve to render them the agreeable and salutary medicine they are. There are few pills so effective as they are in their action.

"Moments are little things, yet by their proper use a book may be read, a picture may be painted, a profession may be learned and a life made useful."

GRAND FOR DIARRHOEA.—I have been using Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for the past six years and consider it a grand remedy for diarrhoea, and it is especially good for children cutting teeth.—Mrs. Henry C. Thede, Port Elgin, Ont.

A sincere and consistent Christian is a living Bible, an epistle of God seen and read of all. Notwithstanding all that is said of the decline of religion, there are many such Christians in the world, "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." Let us thank God for them and try to be like them.

The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

The Lord hath given me the tongue of the disciple that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.—*Elliott.*