

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON.

Nothing is more important than a correct understanding of the teaching of the Bible concerning the Holy Spirit. This is readily seen from the fact that the administration of the dispensation of grace has been given to the third person in the Godhead—the Holy Spirit. Whether the Holy Spirit is the personification of good influences, an expression of the personality of Jesus, or whether He is a person equal with the Father and the Son in the work of human redemption, is of the greatest possible moment. We wish briefly to name some of the reasons why Bible Christians hold to the personality of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible constantly speaks of the Holy Spirit in language which characterizes Him as a distinct, intelligent person. Bishop Hogue points out that in numerous Bible passages "He is described as exercising the functions, thoughts, volitions, and emotions which belong to a distinct personality. None but a real, intelligent person could be 'pleased,' 'vexed,' 'grieved,' or could 'speak,' 'teach,' 'guide,' 'console,' 'intercede,' 'testify,' impart spiritual life, and 'divide His gifts severally to every man according to His own will,' all of which are repeatedly ascribed to the Holy Spirit."

That the Bible teaches the personality of the Holy Spirit is farther seen from the fact that it constantly speaks of the Holy Spirit in precisely the same terms as it applies to the Father; so that the personality of the one stands or falls with the personality of the other. The author quoted above makes this further deduction: "Any person who will, with the aid of a concordance or Bible textbook, look up the numerous instances in which the inspired penmen have touched upon this subject, will not fail to be convinced that, so far as it is possible for human language to escape obscurity when applied to purely spiritual objects, their language must be considered as decisive of the fact that they believed in, and designed to teach, the distinct and proper personality of the Spirit."

"Another evidence of the real personality of the Holy Spirit," he continues, "and one which is closely allied to the preceding argument, is the fact that the Greek New Testament employs the masculine personal pronoun with the neuter noun, Spirit, in speaking of the Comforter, where the neuter pronoun would be employed were it not that the noun represents a person. Our Lord Himself speaks thus: 'When He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.' John 16:13. In this brief passage there are six instances of the employment of the personal pronoun in the masculine gender, with a noun which in the original, is neuter; besides the fact that five distinct acts are ascribed to the Spirit which, by no allowable figure of speech, could be ascribed to an impersonal object."

"The almost constant association of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures, with two other persons, one of whom, the Father, is universally acknowledged to be possessed of a distinct and proper personality, and the ascription to each of them, and to the

three in union, of the same thoughts, volitions, actions, titles, attributes, and authority, with the same kind of worship, and without any distinction as to the degree in which all these things are ascribed to each of the three, furnishes another strong argument in proof of the distinct personality of the Spirit."—Wesleyan Methodist.

WHY HE WANTED "THAT GIRL."

In the City of Boston there is a semi-private home for girls who must support themselves. There are from thirty-five to forty girls in this home all of the time, and there are always girls in need of employment. A Christian business man, who employs a large number of girls, became interested in this home and he told one of the ladies in charge of it that he would keep the home in mind and try to give a position to some girl the first time he had a vacancy. He is a man who sometimes speaks to organizations of girls, and he was asked if he would be willing to go to this home and speak to the girls at one of their fortnightly gatherings. He agreed to do this, and he gave the girls an interesting talk about a trip he had recently made to Russia. At the close of his talk and while refreshments were being served, he said to the superintendent of the home: "That girl over there by the piano in the dark blue dress with the little red bow at her throat—has she a position?"

"No, she has not. She has just lost her place by reason of the failure of the firm employing her. Fifty or sixty girls were thrown out of employment."

"Well, you send that girl down to my office at ten o'clock tomorrow, please."

"We have several other girls who are looking for employment," said the superintendent. "If she did not happen to suit you we might—"

"Well, you send that girl to me first," interrupted Mr. B—. "I have an idea that she is the girl I want."

"I would really like to know why you have happened to choose her," said the superintendent.

"I'll tell you why. In the first place, I noticed that she paid close attention to everything I said while I was talking. That showed that she was not only interested, but that she was polite. I observed two or three girls whispering while I was speaking. That was impolite, no matter whether they were interested in what I was saying. Then I noticed that that girl is very simply and neatly dressed. She is dressed suitably to one of her station in life. That is in her favor. She also has a lady-like bearing and a certain modesty of manner. I venture to say that that girl is never loud in manner nor in conversation. I venture to say that she is not rude in any way, and that she has habits of neatness, and that she is a girl of real Christian character. Am I right?"

"Absolutely," said the superintendent. "You are certainly a good judge of girl character."

"I am, because I have been employing girls for twenty-five years and have had hundreds of them in my employ during that time. I have made a study of girls and I think that I could go into a room in which there are hundreds of girls and pick out the best girl in the lot. Please send that

girl to me tomorrow morning."

"That girl" went to the man's place of business, was given a position better than she had ever had before, has been twice promoted and has in every way justified her employer's expectations regarding her. This business man was like many others. He could "size up" a girl by her general appearance and her manners. Employers in general can do that.—The Baptist Teacher.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

(Continued from Page Six)

Number of members seventeen. Monthly meetings are held. The children take an active part in the work and are a great help in our meetings. A missionary concert is to be held before Beulah which we expect will increase our funds and interest in missionary work. Collections are taken once during the quarter in our S. S.

M. E. THURSTON, Secy.

WOOD ISLAND.

The President of the Society at Wood Island, Brother Eugent Wilcox, writes that the interest in missionary work is increasing; a native worker is supported.

The amount raised during the year \$122.11.

FORT FAIRFIELD.

Fort Fairfield Society was organized in 1915. Monthly meetings are held. The membership at present is thirty-three. A good interest is manifest in the work.

MRS. S. H. WILLIAMS, Secy.

FREDERICTON.

Fredericton reports that their society was organized in 1910. It has a membership of 25. Monthly meetings are held. The missionary work has been well carried on in this society during the year. There has been an increasing interest along the lines of missions. An offering for missionary work is taken once a month in the S. S.

MRS. EDW. HORNCastle.

MONCTON.

This Society was organized in 1889. It has a membership of 37. Monthly meetings are held.

Total amount raised for missions \$140. The meetings during the past year have been very helpful and the attendance good. Interesting programmes were provided for each meeting. The Lord has prospered us and we are looking for greater results the coming year.

GRACE GOOD, Secy.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. S. A. BAKER, Cor. Secy.

If you stand half a mile off from a man and throw Gospel at him you will miss him, but if you go close to him and lay hold upon him, giving him a hearty grip of the hand, and show that you have an affection for him, you will, by God's blessing, lead him in the right way.—Spurgeon.