

THE TRIED AND TRUE PROMISES OF GOD.

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A promise is of value only as it is kept. A Junior's word is of value when he lives up to it. There is no higher praise for boy or man than to have it said of them, "His word is as good as his bond."

God's promises are all "Yea" and "Amen." That is, when God promises, the promise is made good. When God says He will do a certain thing, it is sure to be done.

In our Old Testament lesson, we are invited to hear, and with the invitation goes the promise that if we hear, our souls shall live. We are invited to seek the Lord and to return unto Him and God 'will show mercy and will abundantly pardon.'

God also gives promises touching our everyday needs. He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," and an old saint speaking from a life-long experience says, "I have been young and now am old, yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread."

You remember the story of Joseph, how his envious brothers sold him, and how he was brought down into Egypt, and sold as a slave, but he resolved not to sin against God. In the story we are told that "the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man."

When Joshua, that splendid soldier and true servant of God, was saying farewell to Israel, he told them, "Ye know in all your hearts and all our souls that not one thing hath failed of all the good things that the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All are come to pass unto you and not one thing hath failed thereof."

Nehemiah, in exile, remembered God's promise, "If ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will bring them into the place that I have chosen to set my name there."

And God prospered Nehemiah and sent him to build the wall of Jerusalem and everyone perceived that the work was wrought of God according to His promise.

Daniel obeyed and was advanced to the highest position in the Kingdom of Persia. He honored God and prayed to Him daily and when his enemies had cast him into the den of lions, again making good His promise, "Them that honor me, I will honor."

Christ, in our New Testament Lesson promised rest and peace to all who come to Him. Every Junior who will take Christ at His word will find how good and faithful the promise is, and will be able to sing in the words of the Shepherd Psalm, "Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life."—Presbyterian Record.

I have met many sayings in Plato and in Cicero which were beautiful and wise; but among them all I never found Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.—Augustine.

MOTHER.

After one of the hard-fought battles of the Civil War, a Confederate chaplain was called hastily to see a dying soldier. Taking his hand, he said: "Well, my brother, what can I do for you?" He supposed, of course, the young fellow would want to cry to God for help in his extremity, but not so.

"Chaplain," he said, 'I want you to cut a lock of hair for my mother, and then, chaplain, I want you to kneel down and return thanks to God for me.'

"For what?" asked the chaplain.

"For giving me such a mother. Oh, she is a good mother. Her teachings are my comfort now. And then, chaplain, thank God that by His grace I am a Christian. What would I do now if I were not a Christian. And thank Him for giving me dying grace. He makes this hard bed feel 'soft as downy pillows are.' And, oh, chaplain, thank Him for the promised home in glory—I'll soon be there."

"And so," said the chaplain, "I kneeled by his bed with not a petition to utter, only praises and thanksgiving for a good mother, a Christian hope, dying grace, and an eternal home in glory."

When Dr. Samuel Johnson was fifty years old he wrote to his aged mother, as if he were still her wayward but loving boy: "You have been the best mother, and I believe the best woman in the world. I thank you for all your indulgence to me, and beg forgiveness of all that I have done ill, and of all I omitted to do well."

John Quincy Adams did not part with his mother until he was fifty years of age; yet his cry even then was "O God! could she have been spared yet a little longer. * * * Without her the world feels to me like a solitude."

"You have only one mother, my boy,
Whose heart you can gladden with joy,
Or cause it to ache
Till ready to break—
So cherish that mother, my boy."
—Exchange.

THE LOW CASTES IN INDIA.

"The future of India will not be in the hands of the high-caste Hindu, but in the hands of the low caste and the outcaste."

This sentence appeared in a publication of the Ayra Somaj, a high-caste organization which aims at a revival of a pure type of Hinduism.

Despite all persecution, the Indian low castes and outcastes are turning to Christianity literally by the thousand. So great has this trend become that the leaders of Hindu thought are thoroughly alarmed.

Whether India is to be won soon for the Master will depend upon how fully Christianity can meet the opportunity presented by the movement of these people toward the Church of Christ.—Sel.

"A beautiful character makes a beautiful woman. Not long ago I heard a homely woman spoken of as 'beautiful.' I looked into her face, and saw plain features, and was disappointed. But a closer acquaintance gave me an insight to her character, whose true key note was self-forgetfulness. Soul-beauty will not fade."

MEMORIZED THE WHOLE BIBLE.

In a city in one of the Southern States is a man who has equalled, if not surpassed any other feat of memory on record. He has memorized the entire Bible.

He is a Russian Jew. As a young man he had been an evangelical preacher among his people in Russia. To both State and Church, of course, his views were unorthodox, and that meant in his day and in that country that he must be "muzzled," so the State, under direction of the Church, reached out its relentless hand and he was buried from the world in the depths of a Russian dungeon.

Thus almost entirely cut off from human kind, not allowed to communicate with any person, not even his guard, and allowed to have only one book, the Bible in English, with which tongue he fortunately was familiar, he began to occupy his time by memorizing it and reciting it aloud to himself.

As the years went by he memorized first one book, then another, and then another, until he found that he knew perfectly the entire New Testament, and the books of Psalms, Proverbs and Isaiah in the Old Testament.

Then he conceived the plan of memorizing the Book in its entirety, and when he was released, after twelve years of confinement, he knew the entire Bible by heart.

Although this all occurred many years ago and he is now an old man, he has kept the Bible fresh in his memory by reciting it to himself on the street cars or at other times when he had nothing else to occupy his time.

"PLEASE MOVE ON."

If you visit London and get down in the center of the great city, stand still and look into a window, you won't be there long before a man in blue will put his hand on your shoulder and say:

"Please move on."

"Why should I move on?"

"You are blocking the traffic."

"I am not interfering with any one."

"Your standing still and doing nothing is going to cause an obstruction here; you must please move on. Keep moving. You can go that way, or that way, but you can not stand still; you must move."

My brother, my sister, you can not stand still in life. The moment you stand still and say, "I am just going to be an on-looker," you become an obstacle to others.—G. Campbell Morgan.

FILIAL RESPECT IN CHINA.

One helper said to me: "I wish that you would go with my wife to visit her mother and exhort her."

"But why don't you exhort her yourself? Have you done so?"

"No," he answered, "I mustn't exhort her—we mustn't tell our parents they are in the wrong. It is considered very unfilial, but I do all I can, indirectly, to get her interested."

It was a new light on a Christian's difficulties.—(West China Missionary News.)