

SPIRITUAL LIGHTS.

By Rev. J. N. Short.

The gospel imposes the greatest responsibility upon the man who preaches. He is an ambassador of the King eternal to a lost world. The preacher who is not true is a traitor. His message is from God: he can not modify it without committing a great crime.

Man is not responsible that he does not know God by nature. But, because he is a moral being, light at once produces responsibility. With light he takes his position for or against the truth of Christ, attested or condemned by his conscience. Because of what he is he absolutely has to take his position for or against God.

As a moral being, having a conscience, man is created for God, truth, and righteousness. It is only by God's revealed truth that man discovers himself under the operations of the Spirit. Then only through this revealed truth received into the heart can man come to know God.

Thinking reasonably, we can see that it is only by receiving the truth of God in Jesus Christ that we can become changed in our nature to be sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty. God in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit has made all this possible through our reception of the truth. Only then receiving God's Word, as His thought and will, can we become changed into His mind, and thus come to know God. Any compromising reception of the truth absolutely defeats the truth. This explains why so few have the genuine gospel experience. They do not receive the Word of God into their heart, to keep it there.

Because man is a moral being, his nature is adapted to the truth as light to the eyes, air to the lungs, or food to the physical system. Then God's purpose can only be realized through the reception of God's Word as His thought and will for man. Through receiving God's Word into his heart only does man come to the true end of his being.

Whether intended or not, the attitude of the many in the general visible church, as to fully and intelligently receiving the Word of God into their heart, is a compromising attitude. Otherwise, why all this delay, under a full, open gospel, in coming to the full gospel experience of salvation from sin?

Jesus has made it possible for man to receive the thought, will, and truth of God into the heart. By means of this man comes into perfect accord with the will of God, and thus to be of one mind with God in Jesus Christ. And this is the soundest philosophy. This is the one purpose of God in Christ. If understood, we have it all in a nutshell: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Believing, of course, is receiving the Son of God into the heart, and thus the truth as it is all embraced in Him. The man who believes, thus receives and continues to rely on Him alone. This implies harmonious thinking, and necessitates oneness of thought, spirit, and purpose with Jesus Christ.

This is what holiness unto the Lord implies. In this sense it makes holiness a necessity. Then every man who believes in Christ, and continues to believe, will come

soon with an open Bible to be one with Christ in all God's thought, will, and purpose. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he will then walk with God in holy agreement. Any who profess to believe are blinded by depravity, and shallow in their thinking who stop short of this.

We can make nothing else out of the words of Jesus: "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." This reveals the reason men professing the truth are wrong, and go wrong. "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

A true man then comes to the light, and continues to come, until all his will is swallowed up in the will of God. So it is, "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." So it is written, "The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger."

This proves that those professing the truth, who do not come to all the will of God, have that in them that hates the light. For every one that doeth truth comes to the light, and continues to come until all his heart and life are holy unto the Lord.

I have to put this straight edge of Jesus on my own heart and life, and then upon all who have the light of the gospel. This leaves no middle, standing ground under light. If we are not holy unto the Lord as believers, we are just as holy as we desire to be in our hearts.

If we have the light of the gospel we come to it, and to all the light with a true heart. That is, that is the attitude of a true heart before God. We are now in the will of God; for we come and walk in the light God gives. We do this, because believing and obeying is the one important business of our lives. Being true, we receive the truth in Jesus, and continue to receive it at the expense of all else.

Paul said to young converts, "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."

In connection with walking worthy of God he says, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." The Word of God always effectually works in the heart of all who believe. Jesus died to make this possible. He died to place all truth at our disposal. This is the mercy of God. There is no mercy under the gospel for those who reject it.

The Word of God, because it is the word of Jehovah and mightier than all else, when received into the heart effectually works, expelling all evil and brings the whole heart, the entire man, into harmony with itself.

We all know that any word or thought

is the expression of mind. When it is received into the heart, and retained there, it becomes what we think, and thus what we are, and thus what we will talk, and thus what we will do. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

The reason any one professing to believe the Word of God does not think, speak, and act in harmony with that Word, is because in the gospel sense they do not believe: they do not believe with the heart. While a man thinks his own thoughts, and talks what he thinks, and then acts accordingly, as he will, we know that man does not believe in the truth as it is in Jesus to receive any benefit, or to please God.—Herald of Holiness.

Brother Short attended one of the early holiness conventions held in Woodstock, N. B., and preached several sermons. Our older people will be glad that he is still on the firing line.—Editor.

THE CHRISTIAN'S FASHION.

"Old-fashioned?" Ay, we are; we do not dress

In each new flimsy fancy of the day,—
The fashions of this world that pass away;

We wear the robe of Jesus' righteousness. It is our pride, our glory to confess

That we have found a grace that does not change

Though all on earth may alter and grow strange

Like worn-out garments in a moldy press. We have no honor in the world's blind eyes;

Our humble garb no "modern" shaping shows,

Men don the gaudy raiment that they prize,
The gauzy rags their worldly wisdom knows,

And call us foolish,—us, the only wise,
Who wear the wedding robe the King bestows.

'Tis ours to know that in the King's pure sight

We are all fair and glorious within,
Our hearts washed clean from every taint of sin,

Fit for the heavenly city's halls of light;
To see His face and walk with Him in white,

The golden glory of the temple pave,
Amid the songs ascending, wave on wave,

Where His redeemed shall serve Him, day and night.

Honor to Him who loved us, and who bought

Our ransom from this world's eternal loss;

Praises to Him who died for us, and taught
Our souls to count all worldly gain but dross;

To keep, despite earth's varying styles of thought

The old, unchanging fashion of the Cross.

—Annie J. Flint, in Christian Workers' Magazine.

"The use of cigars and cigarettes in all government schools and colleges shall be strictly prohibited," is a recent edict of the Chinese Minister of the Interior. Good for China. When will the schools of Christian America secure such an edict?