

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness-Isa. 35-8.

VOL. XXXI.

MONCTON, N. B., APRIL 30, 1920.

NO. 20

Therefore If Any Man Be In Christ, He Is a New Creature: OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.

The small word "If" in its setting in this passage of Scripture has very great significance, as it is the pivotical word between two exceedingly important conditions, of men, in their life, and relationship to two worlds, and involves the question of the salvation of their souls through Christ, or the loss of their souls, should they by any means fail to reach the condition indicated by the text, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." He would continue to be the opposite, with all his old dispositions, tempers and habits. The life attests the change, or no change. In his comments on this text Dr. Adam Clarke says: "It is vain for a man to profess affinity to Christ, according to the flesh, while he is unchanged in his heart and life; and dead in trespasses and sins; for he that is in Christ, that is a genuine Christian, having Christ dwelling in his heart by faith, is a new creature. His old state is changed: he was a child of Satan; he is now a child of God. He was a slave of sin, and his works were death; he is now made free from sin, and has his fruit unto holiness; and the end, everlasting life. He was before full of pride and wrath; he is now meek and humble. He formerly had his portion in this life, and lived for this world alone; he now has God for his portion; and he looks not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are eternal. The man is not only mended, but he is new made; he is a new creature, a new creation, a little world in himself. Formerly all was in chaotic disorder; now there is a new creation, which God himself owns as his workmanship; and which he can look on and pronounce very good."

hearts, known and read of all men. Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. 2 Cor. 3-2-3.

A new creation, a new man, a new life, a new objective, not imitating Christ, but living out the new life he has miraculously wrought within; not trying, but being; not a hard or difficult life, but a triumphant, victorious life. A life of faith, hope, love, that was once the opposite to these cardinal graces.

There is a beautiful suggestion in the words "Any Man," implying that this obtainment is within the reach of any man, rich, poor, high, or low, in life's positions, or callings, educated, illiterate, white, black, or red; sick or well; with the greatest natural, or acquired gifts, or those of small gifts. What beautiful examples, we all know, of God's gifts and graces, manifested in the lives of men, and women, and youths and children.

His life has no spells of gloom for he an abiding comforter. He is not an phan. The promise has been verified in his experience: "I will not leave you comfortless" (orphans).

God hath delivered him out of the power of darkness and hath translated him into the kingdom of his dear son. Col. 1-13.

No soul should stop short of the witness of this great fact in his christian experience. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the spirit which he hath given us. 1 John 3-24. This is the attestation of a great spiritual fact. That we know, we know.

THE CHAINS OF SIN.

This is no intimation of the suppression of the old dispositions and tempers. Old things are passed away.

Beholld, All Things Are Become New.

The contrast in the life of those in Christ, (can be seen; the attention is called, not a seecret or hidden life, but living epistles,—yye are our epistle written in our This great transformed life has its sudden epochs, when the transformation takes place. It also has its periods of growth, and discipline.

Its nature is such that all things are made to work together for good, for no man can be in Christ, except he love God. Even the severest tests and trials have their disciplinary effects. Struggles develop greater strength; tribunations increase patience; sorrows increase and intensify prayer. Tests of faith produce greater exercise of faith, and greater things are undertaken and accomplished.

The **New Man** Does Not Look to earthly Sources for help in his time of trouble. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Nor does he look to the world for his happiness, but he sings

"There's no thirsting for life's pleasures. Nor adorning rich and gay, For I've found a richer treasure; One that fadeth not away."

In the Middle Ages a smith was imprisoned for some crime, and was chained to prevent his escape. Owing to his having made chains, he began to examine with anxious interest those that bound him. His experience had taught him that usually there was a flaw in a chain, and he hoped to discover one, in order to escape from bondage; but suddenly he found on the chains some marks which proved that they were of his own making, and he had always cherished the reputation of making flawless, unbreakable chains. The unhappy prisoner gave up hope immediately of ever being able to get free. The chains we make ourselves-chains of habit-are those which are most difficult to break. Let us see to it that the acts we do are not likely to enslave us, or we shall be in the same sad plight as was this prisoner. Remember, however-

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free, 0

9

His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood avails for me."

Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.—Abraham Lincoln.