

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Recently in a mass meeting of men Dr. S. P. Cadman was asked the question: "Is it possible for a man to have an understanding with God that his sins are forgiven and he is saved?" The quick answer came: "Yes, absolutely. Any man, no matter how bad he is, can be saved right here and now and know it." That was the immediate reply of a believer in evangelical Christianity. Man can be forgiven of his sins and know it. He can seek forgiveness and find it and know it now. The word "now" in salvation is one that should not be stricken out. It should be made to stand out with emphasis. It should be embellished. A man can be forgiven of his sins and know it. He does not need to wait and walk in the dark. He can know it. He can have the witness of forgiveness within his own heart, within his own mind. It comes as a distinctive, emphatic assurance. He does not have to take it by conjecture. He can enter into the joy of it now.

This positive statement as a principle of faith in Jesus Christ must not be passed over without some thought. Men in the highest ranks of the ministry believe in the forgiveness of sins and the conversion of the soul in a moment of time. They believe it can be done now, at once, without waiting, without mental reservation. This in reality is the distinctive note of Protestant Christianity. The burdened soul may find a means of deliverance. God has provided a way. A sinner may come to a place in his life where by faith in Jesus Christ he can know in the depths of his soul that he is forgiven. The pulpit should be insistent on this note of its evangelism. It should not let men forget it. There should be regular emphasis upon it. In every congregation on each Sabbath of the year are to be found sin-burdened souls. They are carrying loads that shut out the light of heaven. They want relief. They come to church with that hope. Unless the pastor is faithful, they will depart without the help they crave. This is especially true today. The message of forgiveness is not preached as it should be, and men do not turn to Christ with their burden and in Him find relief. Thank God for the word! Yes, a man can be forgiven and know it now.—Western Christian Advocate.

Is there no other one in the universe interested in goodness except ourselves? Is there no power outside ourselves making for righteousness? Is not the throne of God established in faithfulness and truth and mercy? Did not Christ live in this world, and work in this world, and pray for this world, and die for this world? Has He not risen from the dead; and is He not on the right hand of God, with all power and majesty? We are too modest, isolated, unimaginative, faithless. The tides of time and the forces of history are with us; the principalities and powers in the heavenly places are upon our side.—John Watson.

Art thou a beggar at God's door? Be sure thou gettest a great bowl, for as thy bowl shall be thy mess.—John Bunyan.

THE TRAMP.

An old man came to our door and begged for bread. His hair was gray, his back was bent, his face was wrinkled, and he walked with lagging steps. His clothes were ragged, and he was grimy with smoke and dirt. His hands were stiff and trembling with the chill March wind.

We gave him food and a copy of the Gospel according to Matthew. He took the little book and, holding it in front of his dim eyes, read the title. Then, beginning in a somewhat monotonous voice, he told the story of the Bible—how it was prepared, the history of it, the forming of the canon and the history of the early church. He spoke of prophecy and of the signs of the times. In a few minutes he showed that he had a knowledge of the Scriptures such as you might expect of a professor in a theological seminary.

As he turned away he said, "I lost my last two jobs because I was too old. I am drifting toward the city. Maybe something will turn up there; I don't know." And without a sign of hope in his face he left the house.

In spite of all his knowledge I could not find in anything that he said evidence of the saving faith in Jesus Christ. The path of his soul was just as weary a way as the path of his feet.

It was a pitiful picture, and still I have often wondered whether there are not far too many men like him in the world. How many there are who have had Christian training and know the Bible well who have no saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! How many church members there are who have no knowledge of Him as a personal Saviour!

TAG DAYS.

We have opposed the "tag day" proposition from its inception, mainly because of its bringing young girls before the public in the role of beggars, and subjecting them to more or less contact with those of an evil character. We believe there is no cause of such importance as to justify risks of this kind. "Martha," in the Christian Statesman expresses herself upon the subject as follows:

The dog days are trying.

But the "tag days" are worse.

I hope that I am not unwilling to give at least my fair proportion to worthy causes. But I choose to give it in some other fashion than by contributing to various "tag" projects.

In the first place there is a big chance for fraud.

In the second, and this is my serious objection, the "tag day" places on the public streets young and attractive girls and requires them to accost strange men and to ask them for money.

I would be unwilling to have a daughter of my own do this—for any cause. And I never been and will not be a party to asking any one else's daughter to do it.

Surely some less dangerous way may be found to raise money for worthy charities.

The girl tags the man, and too often the man tags after the girls.—The Free Methodist.

A DREAM.

Rev. Joseph H. Smith.

I have had a few dreams that whether they had a spiritual origin or not have had a special lesson, and this was one of them. I was at a camp meeting where I had gone for twenty-two years. One night I dreamed I had prepared a sermon and written it out to about my satisfaction. You may know that was a dream, for I have never yet written a sermon to my satisfaction. There was sitting beside me a very dear friend and I passed this sermon over to him to read. I was anxious to see how it would impress him and I was watching his face. For about two-thirds of the sermon his face was very luminous and showed much pleasure. After that it grew dull and almost as though he was finishing up the sermon as a matter of courtesy and then passed it back without saying anything, so I inquired. "What do you think of the sermon?" "Brother Smith, it has many bright points, it is very full of points, but I could not find any hooks in it." I have never forgotten that dream. Beloved, that is the very distinction I am trying to make in our minds, the distinction between giving points of instruction, which has an important place, and having hooks which catch souls and bring them in. It is not a full-fledged sermon unless it has hooks in it. Jesus did not say, "Follow me and I will make you fixers of nets." Beloved, if we had here only a school of methods, that would be a school of net menders, but he said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." The folks that are busiest fixing nets have not as a rule caught anything.—In Heart and Life.

SAYINGS OF GYPSY SMITH.

"No soul is too dead to rise again.

Your heart was a slum till Christ came into it.

Many are not dying for want of light but for want of obedience.

I never knew anyone who "takes care of his reputation" to have much of a one.

The man who can get religion without knowing it can lose it without missing it.

The cross is the greatest asset I have to preach and I'm not going to give it up for any uncertainty.

When your church loses its desire and power to convert people it loses its right to be called a church.

When your heart is filled with Christ you want to sing to yourself; but if not, you pay others to sing for you.

Calvary is never stale news except to stale people. To those with an appetite it is as fresh as a primrose in June.

I have been preaching the Gospel for many years on four continents, and I say that men are not tired of Jesus—they are tired of caricatures of Him.

"The habit of strict truth, like the habit of strict honesty, is rarely learned after youth is past. These foundations should early be laid by every boy and girl."

"Some are called to preach the Gospel; all are called to practice it."