

GOD MAKES A HOME.

Any one can build an altar; it requires a God to provide the flame. Anybody can build a house; we need the Lord for the creation of a home. A house is an agglomeration of bricks and stones, with an assorted collection of manufactured goods; a home is the abiding place of ardent affection, of fervent hope, of genial trust. There is many a homeless man who lives in a richly-furnished house. There is many a fifteen-pound house in the crowded street which is an illuminated and beautiful home. The sumptuously furnished house may be the very hearthstone of the eternal God. Now the Christian religion claims to be able to convert houses into homes, to supply the missing fire, and to bring an inspiring flame to the cold and chilling heap. The New Testament does not say very much about homes; it says a great deal about the things that make them. It speaks about life and love and joy and peace and rest. If we get a house and put these into it, we shall have secured a home. Here, then, are two houses. In both of them there is no love, no joy, no peace, no rest. There is no flame of genial and radiant hope. Let us bring the Christian religion into one of the houses, and do as you please with the other. In one house the tenants shall kneel before King Jesus. They shall be one in common purpose, and they shall strive together with common mind and will. What will assuredly happen? With absolute certainty the house will become a home! That is a glorious commonplace in the history of the Christian faith. When Christ has been enthroned, and every member of the family becomes a worshipper, there steals into the common life a warmth of affection which converts even trivial relationships into radiant kinships. What shall we do with the other house? Sin reigns! Passion reigns! Estrangement reigns! There is continued tumult and unrest. What shall we do? Call upon Baal! Call upon "the God of this world!" It would be a fruitless quest. There is nothing for it but the grace of Christ.—J. M. Jowett, D.D.

Amid all the apparent and the actual complexities of life, and the multitudinous variety of choices before us, there are, after all, but two ways; one the way of right, of righteousness, of the holy, of the spiritual, of God; the other the way of tampering with conviction, with right, with duty, of temporizing with temptation, of illegitimate indulgence, of subordinating the true to the untrue, and choosing self-gratification in the ultimate preference of our will instead of God and that which will secure the highest well being of ourselves and others. This ever present necessity of so choosing constitutes what Philips Brooks denominates "The everlasting fight against the everlasting lie."—Selected.

Originally not only the ministers were full of the Holy Ghost and faith, but the church officers also. "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." Blessed is the church indeed in which such men can be found.

PURITY OF HEART AND SPIRITUAL VISION.

The words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 5:8 state that "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." Of this passage Professor Francis G. Peabody, of Harvard, said: "That, I suppose, is the highest and deepest proposition which ever fell from human lips."

The self-evident assertion is that purity of heart leads to the knowledge of God. There is nothing in the statement which would confine its application to beholding God in heaven in the life beyond. It may contain such a meaning, but this is by no means the primary one.

It is well nigh impossible to have a correct creed unless the heart is first made pure. For the character and nature are certain to influence one's thinking. The mental and spiritual vision is influenced by the condition of the heart.

If this is true, then the following reasoning is correct: "A theologian who wants to be profound must be pure. Consecration brings with it insight. The perfect knowledge of God is to be attained only by the perfectly consecrated life. The human soul is a mirror on which the light of God shines, and only the pure mirror reflects the perfect image. What a word is this to drop into the midst of conflicting theologies and philosophies of the time, of the disputes between people who think they know all about God, and the people who think they cannot know Him at all! Do you want to be sure that God is directing and supporting you in all your perplexing experiences of life? You cannot see God in these things except through a perfectly purified heart. Clarify the medium of vision, the truth undiscerned before it breaks upon the observer's sight."

How much time would be saved by those who vainly search for truth and a correct understanding of the facts of life, both individual and general, if they would first make sure their hearts were made pure by the blood of Calvary's Lamb! Lord, with unobstructed vision may we behold Thy face and enjoy uninterrupted communion with Thyself. Blessed indeed are the pure in heart!

GOD'S MINISTERS.

We have always loved faithful preachers of the Gospel, at least ever since one true man of God laid his hand on our shoulder when we were but a poor barefoot boy and spoke to us about Jesus and His love for children. This man has gone on before, and his body is laid away in some cemetery in the Southland. We loved him while he lived, we love him still, for it was in his church we wept our way to the foot of the cross and there found peace and joy in believing in Jesus.

In those days they moved the preachers every four years, and our friend finally went, and another man came to take his place as pastor of the church. He was a good man and we liked to hear him preach, but he did not fill the place in our boyish heart the other man did. We expect to see our friend again and tell him how much we loved him and how much his kind words and prayers have meant to

us through the pilgrimage in this vale of tears. There are some things we never forget. Spiritual fathers are very dear to the child of God.

The true pastor will never see all the fruits of his labor here on earth. Only eternity can reveal it. And observation and experience has brought us to see that it is not the great sermons, or the big building projects, or the organizing ability, or the high official positions that count the most in getting people saved and sanctified and ready for Heaven. We are not saying anything against these things; they have their place in the work of the church. But we are talking about the work of the man who goes among the people, wins their confidence, leads them to Jesus, and then helps and encourages them along the way; rejoices with them in their prosperity, and weeps with them in their sorrows, and so preaches the Gospel to them that they grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord; who tells them that there is more land yet to be possessed, and encourages them to press forward in the divine life and obtain all the Lord has for them.

The Churches need pastors who will be true shepherds, looking after the young as well as the old. Of all the things that Jesus did, it is recorded more than once that He noticed the children, and put His hands on them and blessed them. And a boy—just a common every-day boy—was a party to the feeding of a hungry multitude in the days when Jesus was on earth in the flesh.—Way of Holiness.

A SATISFYING CHRIST.

Is He reigning supreme in your heart, dear friend,

Is the Christ your king today?
Every need of the year so soon to come,
Are you trusting Him to supply?

It is Christ in you—great mystery—
The hope of glory to be;
Then your life to be hid with Christ in Gdo,
Only thus comes the victory.

As this year passes by, so the old life must go,
And the Spirit take perfect control;
Revealing in you the glory of Christ
For spirit, for body and soul.

A perfect salvation, a glorious Christ,
Is yours for the year now before
Sufficient to meet and to satisfy
From His riches and treasure store.
—Sel.

It was Martin Luther who wrote, late in life: "I have had many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have been able to place in God's hands I still possess."

Christianity is the only religion that abounds in song. Atheism is songless; agnosticism has nothing to sing about; the various forms of idolatry are not tuneful; but Judaism said: "Oh, come, let us sing unto the Lord;" and when Christ came the angels greeted His birth with a song, and since then Christian song has gained in fulness and strength of voice with each century.