

### ACCORDING TO PRESENT DAY WISDOM.

John the Baptist was very unwise to reprove Herod, for having his brother's wife, suffering the loss of his life for doing so.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ in his reproof of the Chief Priests, and the Scribes, and Pharisees, and the world generally for sin and hypocrisy, until he was crucified.

And Stephen, for his scathing sermon, called "Stephen's apology," Acts 7th Chapter, resulting in him being stoned to death.

And the disciples created such a state of things in Jerusalem that they were persecuted and driven out, and scattered abroad. And Peter raised such a disturbance that he was lodged in prison, and had to leave town between two days.

And Paul became so unpopular that he had to go about as a prisoner chained to a Roman soldier and finally had his head cut off.

And Daniel was so unwise to open his windows and pray so loud that he disturbed some people so much that the political men with influence with the King, decided to give the lions a choice supper off his bones.

"The three worthies" were a bunch of "temperance cranks," and were deemed good fuel for a very hot furnace—all due to indiscretion, and unwise methods, and utterances. Very few brethren in these days who would be so discourteous, and unwise as to look down over their audience of money lenders and schemers of every type, and people they know to be living lives which bid defiance to most of the ten commandments, and say with thunder in their voice, and lightening in their eyes, "Oh, generation of vipers who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Who could be found who would use the language of our Saviour Jesus Christ in his terrible scathing of the scribes and pharisees, of Matt. 23, closing with verse 33 in which he said: "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

We are not speaking of the little "ranter" in a country village church. So this is no license or suggestion of such. But we are referring to the great wisdom (?) of the present day, compared with New Testament times. While those people's terrible reproof only evidenced that they were stirred to the limit of crimes in destroying the lives of John the Baptist, and Christ and his apostles. We have no history of their repentance, but our Lord approved of John the Baptist's language by using the same himself.

S. A. BAKER.

You poor, prolific, parrot-like noisemaker, if you would just hush long enough to let God have an opportunity to talk to you real plainly there would be a hopeful probability that you might obtain something from above that the Spirit would genuinely bless you real good about.

If I really and truly want to be right I can be. Jesus will do the work in me, thus enabling me to be right.—S. A. B.

### EXHORTATION TO BE HOLY.

"Having these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness, in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1. No wonder after they had been forbidden to "touch the unclean thing," St. Paul exhorted them to be clean. Farther on, 13th chapter, 9th verse, he adds, "and this also we wish ever your perfection."

It is not probable that he was exhorting them to do what they had already done, or that he was wishing for them, what they already possessed. But as his address to them was, "dearly beloved," we must suppose that they were Christians.

"Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection." Heb. 6:1. Can we for a moment admit that the inspired writer of this epistle was exhorting those to whom he was writing, to do what they could not do? It must be so, or it was possible for them, not only to go on towards "perfection," but to go "unto" it.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."—Heb. 10:19-22.

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1. Tim. 4:13. We see by this that purity or holiness is attainable to the young Christian.

"Seeing ye have purified your soul in obeying the truth, through the Spirit, unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." 1. Peter 1:22. This exhortation was given to those already in the possession of pure hearts, that they should show forth that purity in their love to one another.

### SENTIMENT.

Those who suppose that holiness is mere enthusiasm, a mere gush of feeling or fanaticism, have made a great mistake. It is the most practical thing in the world. No doubt there are those who mistake their emotional experience and think it holiness. But this perverted notion is not to be used against holiness. Holiness is perfect love to God and man. It is the fulfilling of the ten commandments. Because the fulness of joy accompanies it, some have mistaken that for holiness itself.

God witnesses to the experience of holiness but any persuasion that we have that we are holy must be tried by the indirect proofs and tests of the Scriptures. We are commanded to try the spirits whether they be of God. We have no doubt that Satan helps people in the indulgence of emotions to make them believe that they are holy when they do not produce the results of holiness.

Jesus said in his great Sermon on the Mount, "Be ye therefore perfect, even

as your father which is in heaven is perfect." Emphasis should be put on the word "therefore" in this passage. He is commanding, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you; and pray for them that despitefully use and persecute you." "It will be seen then from this connection that if we are perfect as our father in heaven we must have this disposition towards them that are our enemies. In this way we can test our experience of perfect love or holiness. There is no higher test. If this is not the most practical kind of religion we do not know what it is. If we have got real holiness, we will be able to abide the test and we will rejoice in loving and praying for our enemies, for thereby we may know that we have real holiness. This means that holiness is more than a fanaticism or sentiment or a maudlin, weak theory. So we have the privilege of knowing whether we have the genuine article, for it stands the test.—Christian Witness.

### RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

There are many who are putting off the matter of seeking full salvation until a more convenient season.

They think their circumstances are not favorable. When they get in a position where it will be easier to live the life, where there are not so many trials or things to aggravate them, they will live a holy life; then they will seek the blessing. They forget ahat the very fact that they are now under adverse circumstances and have much to try them, is just the reason they need the blessing now. God intends to save you right where you are, circumstances or not. If He could keep you only when circumstances were favorable it would go to show that circumstances are mightier than his power. Do not stop to wait for imaginary easier conditions, but come to God just as you are, now. It will never be easier for God to keep you than now. If one set of circumstances were changed another similar would follow. It is not the circumstances that need changing, but you who need it. Just as housekeepers put up fruit to keep under all conditions, so does God want to preserve you. John Fletcher, the saint of Methodism, says, "We ought to be holy in the state in which Providence has placed us, instead of making projects of good in the future; and we need the greatest faithfulness to God in little things. That state of life to which God has called us is safe for us, if we fulfill all His holy will."

The more convenient season will never come. "Now is the day of salvation." The enemy of our souls is ever soothing us with the idea of "the sweet bye and bye" when we shall have favorable conditions to seek holiness. God's time is now. Be not deceived, in waiting for a more convenient season. Get victory right where the conditions are the most adverse and forbidding. God is equal with His grace to any set of circumstances.—Christian Witness.

If sin brings a measure of punishment in this life, how much more will it bring punishment in the life to come?