

TO BE WITH HIM.

Listen to the chiefest of the apostles: "I am in a strait betwixt the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ: for it is very far better." Phil. 1:23. R. V. And again: "So shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Permit me to illustrate by reference to personal experience. During the first year of our married life Mrs. Sanders was attending a seminary in Hacketstown, N. J. where we missionary students took the first of our three years' course of study. I had been there the year before, and was now doing my second-year studies at Brooklyn, N. Y., sixty miles distant. Although a return train fare could be bought for one dollar, yet we seldom had that amount to spare, and consequently saw each other only once in a month or two. During those long intervals we, of course, wrote very frequently, but there was always the heartache because she could not be with me.

I still carry a precious mental picture of her standing at the front door of her home in Hacketstown, bidding me good-bye. She was bravely but vainly trying to keep back the tears as I hastened away at the last moment to catch my train for New York.

Books of fiction without number have been written upon the theme of true love between husband and wife. And novels, with the love story left out, are rare. The great romance in God's true Book, the Bible, is the heart union between Christ and his bride. There we find emphasized their longing to be together. Not only does the Bride look forward to and "love His appearing," but He, for this "joy that was set before him, endured the cross," that "He might present her to Himself, a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish." He has prayed, "Father, I will that they . . . be with me, where I am, that they may behold my glory." And then He has promised: "I go to prepare a place for you; and . . . I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Nothing short of being actually with her Lord, can satisfy the Bride's soul hunger.

True, the Holy Spirit now makes the church His temple. He baptizes the consecrated believers into "one body," through which he works mightily to save "whosoever will," and conform them to the Divine Image. For "as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." And, since this uttermost salvation, which has been bought with the heart's blood of the Son of God, can be made effectual only by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, we can easily believe that God is more willing to give that Spirit to them that "ask Him, than parents are to give good gifts unto their children." We cease to marvel that the moment the appointed "day of Pentecost was fully come," the Holy Spirit descended and entered His temple, not slowly and reluctantly, but as if borne on the wings of a "rushing, mighty wind."

It is ever the same: When we meet the conditions of conservation; and so solemnly vow and forsake all other loves and be only and forever His—then it is that faith unlocks the barred door and admits the waiting Guest.

Oh, how He has longed to enter and speak, not of Himself, but bring us the love messages of our Lord, who awaits the glad moment when we may be forever with Him. The spirit cometh to remind us of all the precious words Jesus has spoken. He often shows us "as in a glass (or photo) the glory of the Lord"—and lo, "we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

When the Holy Spirit is come "He shall testify of me, and ye also shall bear witness." Pentecost sheds abroad the love of God in the heart so that, like Isaiah, we are constrained to reply to the world's need. "Here am I Lord, send me." Henceforth "it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of my father, that speaketh in you." Though it may not be in other tongues, yet we should speak by inspiration and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And this save Divine love, is that which causes the exiled Bride to long for heaven and home and, most of all, to be with Christ.

Yours in His love,
H. C. SANDERS.

MY PRESENT LORD.

Matt. 28-20

Mrs. E. E. Williams

On mountain height, or in the valley low,
When oceans rage, or peaceful rivers flow,
On storm-swept crag, or in the sheltered vale,
Where Winter howls, or Spring perfumes exhale,
On battle field, breasting the thund'rous shock;
Or safely hidden in the clefted rock,
In all my pains and pleasures One doth share,
For Christ my Lord is with me everywhere.
When sorrows sweep in billows o'er my soul;
When "strife of tongues" like mutt'ring thunders roll
When I man hopes, like Summer's sun has set;
When foes remember, and when friends forget,
Or, when across my way, with radiance bright,
Fresh from the skies stream floods of happy light
When death knells toll, or merry joy-bells chime
Still Christ my Lord is with me all the time.
And so I journey on, content to know
That He is with me all the way below.
His love, His mercy, and His mighty power
Sustains my soul in every trying hour.
His Spirit is my comforter and guide—
While he is near no evil can betide—
And when, at last, the lonely vale I tread
That leads unto the city of the dead,
No fear shall with my shouts of vict'ry blend,
For Christ will still be with me to the end.
—Christian Standard.

SOME DON'TS FOR PREACHERS

By F. Lincicome

Don't neglect your study. The apostle Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

The flock of God must be fed. God has ordained that at our hands this food be dealt out to them and in order to do this it is necessary that we become acquainted with the Word of God.

I am sure that some preachers are more or less responsible for the lack of advancement and lack of increase in spirituality in the church of not giving the right kind of food.

Christian character can not be built upon "issues." Negative truth will not produce aggressive Christians nor feed, to any extent, a sanctified soul.

Some societies are not as spiritual as they should be and one of the causes for it, I verily believe, is that they are undernourished. Too many preachers have a list of old sermons that they have been preaching for twenty years. After they have preached a year they have exhausted their supply and then they come on from time to time with a rehash of old worn-out stuff too many times expressed in hackneyed phrases. I don't claim that a man has to be a graduate in order to preach but I do say he ought to be a student and, if he is not willing to be a student, he ought to step down and out.

Don't forget that as a usual thing you have two kinds of people in your audience, to whom you preach: you have some who are of a strong intellectual temperament and others who are largely emotional. A preacher that appeals to the intellect alone will starve the other crowd. Most people are abnormal. Some are all intellect, some are all sensibilities and some are all will. If you reach the man who is all intellect, you will have to give him the hows and whys and wherefores. If you reach the man who is all sensibilities, you will have to drag him through a graveyard and tell him of his dear aunties that have gone on before. If you preach to please two or three wisecracks you'll let the biggest part of your audience starve. So don't parade around in the pulpits on stilts. A preacher may deliver a sermon that will appeal to the intelligence of a man, but if it lacks the emotional quality, it will fail in its purpose. By appealing to the intellect you will set him to thinking but will not bring him under real and pungent conviction. The feelings of the man must be touched. God gets at the sensibilities of a man through his intellect and moves his will by his sensibilities.

So in the preparation of your sermon you should have enough in it that will appeal to the intellect but do not address his intellect alone for man has three natures and all must be considered.

Gary, Indiana.

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed."—St. Paul.