

have no opportunity to go to church, so I listen in to your broadcasts. I always thought I was ready to meet the Saviour until Sunday night. Even then, it did not dawn upon me until right at the close of your message. For some reason you spoke a little longer than usual, and about three minutes to ten you suddenly sent that great question of questions vibrating over the ether: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Like a flash I saw myself as I really was—a morally good woman, with a sin-laden heart. I determined not to neglect this great salvation another moment, so then and there I knelt down and accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. How glad I am that you spoke longer. How precious were those last four minutes!"—Bright Words.

### EAGER TO BELIEVE THE BEST

Dr. Moffatt translates the familiar Corinthian phrase, "Love believeth all things," to read "Love is always eager to believe the best." These words go to the very heart of one of our most common vices. Many in our day seem to be eager to believe the worst. They have an appetite for bad news, they rejoice at calamities befalling those they dislike, they have a ready ear for scandal, a delight in evil report, a malignant enjoyment at talebearing. Paul is here saying that a heart of love produces a "mind-set" to believe the best possible, as soon as possible and as long as possible. Such eagerness to believe the best possible actually creates the best possible in others. A young mother, undaunted by discouragement, believed the best for her son, and Caruso was given to the world. In this day of racial and national hatreds it is so easy to believe the worst concerning the enemy. But love incarnate in the human heart ought to make us "eager to believe the best."—Editorial in Arkansas Methodist.

### THE CLOSING YEAR

"Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours,  
And ask them what report they bore to heaven,  
And how they might have borne more welcome news."

Another year, worn out with age, has shared the fate of its ancestors, and mingled with them in the grave of eternity. What a multitude of reflections rush upon the soul in an occasion like this! The flood gates of the past are open on the mind; the pleasing and the painful alike are present to our meditations. The sunshine of joy has out-burst from the heavens of prosperity to cheer us in our passage to the skies. Social intercourse with the friends of our hearts, domestic bliss by our own fireside, special outpourings of the Holy Spirit's influences, the realization of divine in the heart, times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, while engaged in the devotions of the closet, the family altar, or the great congregation, "how sweet their memory still."

But every day has its clouds; and so the past year, reader, has not been all sunshine. The clouds of sorrow have darkened the fairest skies. The winds of adversity have blighted our fondly cherished hopes. The rod of affliction has pressed heavily upon our fragile frame. Within the career of one short year, death with cruel vehemence has flung his fatal dart into our family circles. The eyes that a

year ago sparkled with the brilliancy of joy, have now become dim. The cheeks that then bloomed in all the loveliness of youth and beauty have faded beneath the withering touch of death. The voice that then sounded like music in our ears, is now hushed in the stillness of the dead. We have mourned beside the loved one's bier, and have buried our dead out of our sight. The grave, that enemy of earthly joy, has robbed us of our dearest treasure, and drunk the hallowing tear of friendship and affection. Thus year after year passes away, reminding us that all things earthly are subject to change. And soon our turn will come. Soon we must bid adieu to this ever-varying world, and lie down to moulder in the house appointed for all living.

O what a chequered page does the record of the past present! Every action, every thought, has been described with minute faithfulness in the registry of heaven, and now the recording angel is about to present his yearly register before the court on high. Deep stillness reigns above, beneath, around. All nature seems awaiting with breathless silence the verdict of heaven's great Arbiter. Reader, what report is registered concerning you?

Let us endeavour to improve the present solemn season by looking back on the past year. What is the record it bears in reference to ourselves? Omissions of duty, Christian provement neglected, the Bible closed, the provement neglected, the Bible closed, the throne of grace unfrequented, fragments of time wasted in idle, unprofitable conversation; reflections like these rushing into the mind with overwhelming force, surely cannot fail to awaken thoughts of a most solemn and impressive kind. And yet, how few are those against whose name some one at least of these charges has not been recorded during the past year! Were it possible, how gladly would we snatch the registry from the hand of time, and bury it in oblivion. Let the past, then, teach us a profitable lesson for the future. Time is a talent given us by the wise Dispenser of all things for the best of all purposes—the salvation of our immortal souls. It is talent for which we must give an account at the bar of God, where its right use will be rewarded with unfading glory, while its misappropriation will be branded with everlasting shame.

The new-born year is before us. We may live to see its close, or we may not. In answer to our interceding Redeemer, we may be spared another year, to enjoy another year's privilege and opportunities of getting good to our own souls, and doing good to others. Let us be solicitously careful that we have our fruit unto holiness, that the end may be life everlasting. On the other hand, as soon as another year shall have begun its course, the declaration may be uttered: "This year thou shalt die." Before the close of another year, you, reader, may be reading the secrets of eternity, your soul appearing in its real, undisguised character, in the world of spirits, either with Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, or with the rich man in everlasting perdition. That we must all die, and be as water spilt upon the ground, which cannot be gathered up again, is a fact none will dispute. It is equally certain that this may be our lot very soon. Seeing, then, that there is one event that happeneth to all, whether monarch or plebian, that this event may be but a few pulses from us now, and that every moment of our time is given with reference

to preparing for that event is not our highest wisdom to examine ourselves, and see to it that we so improve our time in securing our interest in the Saviour's atonement, that when He shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation, we too may appear with Him in glory!—Selected.

### MAKE IT THE HABIT OF YOUR LIFE

Dr. J. B. Chapman

Make it the habit of your life to—

Pray audibly and inaudibly every day no matter where you are or under what circumstances you are called upon to serve.

Read a portion of scripture every day. Even though the portion must be brief, do not miss reading something in the Word of God and, when there is opportunity, make up to the average (three chapters daily and five chapters on Sunday) required for covering the entire Bible during the year.

Pay your tithe regularly and punctually, whether its amount be large or small. Pay your tithe to God through the treasury of the church where you are a member, and pay it whether you like the preacher or not.

Make offerings of time and money as the Lord shall stir you up, and whether your gift is much or little, give cheerfully and liberally.

Go to church regularly, and strive always to be on time. Try to be as faithful as the old Pharisees were in that they made solemn vows to be there every time the synagogue was opened.

Undertake any reasonable task the pastor, Sunday school superintendent or any other leader asks you to do; but do not allow yourself to feel slighted when others are assigned to work for you.

Be courteous to those whom you think of as your superiors. "Restless lies the head that wears a crown," and the rich and the noble are among earth's most neglected, when it comes to faithful dealing in the interest of souls.

Be kind to the poor, considerate of strangers, patient with the erring, and courteous to all men.

Avoid "over-talking," be a good listener, especially to those who want to unburden their hearts to you regarding their own deep sorrows.

Be thoughtful of the members of your family; don't borrow money from your friends, pay your honest debts on time or be ahead of time with explanations and apologies; don't haggle over prices (buy or don't buy; sell or don't sell, but don't bicker and haggle), be genuinely thankful for any favors shown you, and positively refuse to complain, no matter what happens.

Live simply, don't over-eat or over-sleep; don't either cringe or boast, be an example in purity both as regards words and actions. If the best does not seem to come to you right away, remember that God is eternal and you are immortal, and therefore you can wait.—Herald of Holiness.

Not merely shall I grow so that I shall be able to understand vastly more of what God is and what He is doing; God also will be ever doing new things. He is forever active. He has purposes concerning me which He has not yet unfolded. Therefore each year grows more sacred with wondering expectation.—Phillips Brooks.