

## BE A SOLDIER FOR JESUS

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."—2 Tim. 2:3.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12  
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## A SAFE JOURNEY

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."—Prov. 3:6.

## MINUTE BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS

## William Wilberforce

Living today throughout the far-flung areas of the British Empire are thousands of Negroes whose great grandfathers were the victims of a vicious and inhuman institution—slavery. In England today, the Negro has equal rights with the white man, and for that freedom he is largely in debt to William Wilburforce, the Abraham Lincoln of Great Britain.

## Reckless Youth

Wilberforce was born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, but his family wealth and influence served merely as the magic combination which opened to him the privileges of the "fast" set of his day. From the time of his birth at Hull, England, Aug. 24th, 1759, until 1785 young William's life was characterized by a reckless abandon to the frivolities of the "upper classes."

## Remarkable Change

By chance, however, Wilberforce came into contact with a noble work, **The Rise and Progress of Religion**, by Philip Doddridge, whose "Minute Biography" has already been on this page. The exciting career of the young reveler was arrested, and a sudden dissatisfaction with his way of life stirred him into contemplation of more serious things. After a period of inner restlessness, he found definite peace in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Immediately he dropped his old habits and evil friends, and resolved to become a positive force in the cause of righteousness.

## A Christian Statesman

Wilberforce had already entered politics and was elected to Parliament before his conversion. He was not misguided, however, by the crude notion that Christianity and politics (the science of government) are incompatible. He carried his new-found convictions to Parliament with him, and in spite of being nicknamed "the saint," began to agitate for legislation that would alleviate some of the most glaring evils of a so-called Christian nation.

## The Anti-Slavery Bill

It was in 1788 that Wilberforce first introduced in Parliament the subject of slavery. His words stirred up antagonism in the hearts of men of high position who were growing wealthy from the traffic in men's lives. The opposition hastily organized to fight this young dreamer who had suddenly become so solicitous for the welfare of the "niggers," the result being that scarce notice was made of the anti-slavery resolution.

He brought it up again, however, when the House convened the next spring, but his plea received the same cold disdain. Wilberforce would not be silenced by any opposition, and continued to introduce his bill in the years 1792, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1798, 1799, and each time failed to win a successful vote.

## Final Triumph

The final triumph of Wilberforce was, in truth, a triumph for the oppressed slaves. In 1807 a bill was passed to prevent the further importation of slaves into British territory,

## A SERMON

I'd rather see a sermon  
Than hear one any day.  
I'd rather one would walk with me  
Than merely point the way.  
The eye's a better pupil  
And more willing than the ear.  
Fine counsel is confusing  
But example's very clear.  
The best of all the preachers  
Are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good in action  
Is what everybody needs.  
I'll soon learn to do it,  
If you'll let me see it done,  
I can watch your hands in action  
But your tongue too fast may run.  
While the lectures you deliver  
May be wise and true,  
Yet I'd rather learn my lesson  
By observing what you do.  
For I may not understand you  
And the advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding  
How you act and how you live.

—Unknown

## CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROMISES

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." This is the Christian's motto and inspiration. This is the dividing line between Christian confidence and self-confidence. The one is a work of humility, the other is a mark of conceit. "Do you expect to make any impression on the vast Chinese empire?" they asked Morrison, the pioneer missionary to China. "No, but I expect that God will," was the reply. In an age of doubt and uncertainty God is looking for some man, or woman or youth, who will utterly believe Him, who will attempt great things for Him.—Selected.

## GIVE ME EYES

By Florence Ekstrand

For all Thy beauty, Lord—the rolling white  
Of winter, summer green, the stars at night—  
For these, Lord, give me eyes that see and  
bless  
Thee for Thy bounty and Thy graciousness.  
Yet grant, I pray, my eyes may never hold  
To beauty till they do not see the cold,  
Drawn face of hunger, or the tears that start  
From hope long stilled, and anguish in the  
heart.

—Selected

but this being only a half-victory, he persisted in his fight for the complete abolition of slavery.

His ultimate victory and death were almost simultaneous. On July 25, 1833, the glad news was brought to him that the House of Commons had passed a bill which would immediately liberate all the slaves in the British colonies.

Three days later, on July 28, Wilberforce died "in the holy triumph of a Christian" with the supreme satisfaction of having fulfilled the great mission that he had set out to accomplish.

W. H. M.

## REMINDERS OF HUMILITY

The story is told of the world-famed evangelist, Gipsy Smith, who returning to his beautiful home from a most successful campaign, felt his heart stirred with pride and with a feeling of self-importance. He called his gardener and told him to place an old gipsy wagon in the back yard. The man protested saying, "Mr. Smith, that would destroy the beauty of it." But the great gipsy evangelist was determined, so the wagon was brought and placed where each time he looked from his study it could be seen. "Now," said Mr. Smith, "When the devil tempts me to think highly of myself or my accomplishments, I point him to the old wagon and remind him there is where I was when God took hold of me and but for His grace I would still be there."—Selected.

## HELPS TO CHRISTIAN LIVING

Paste this in your Bible and read often:

1. Never neglect daily, private prayer: and when you pray, wait before Him till He answers you. Remember that God is present, and that He hears your prayers. Heb. 11:16; Mark 11:24; John 15:7; Jas. 1:17.
2. Never neglect daily Bible reading: and when you read remember that God is speaking to you, and that you are to believe and act upon what He says. **I believe that all backsliding begins with the neglect of these two rules.** John 5:39; Josh. 1:38; Isa. 34:16; Psa. 1:2.
3. Never let a day pass without trying to do something for Jesus. Every night reflect on what Jesus has done for you, and then ask yourself, "What am I doing for him?" Matt. 5:13-16; Jno. 9:4; Jno. 4:34; Eccl. 9:10.
4. If you are ever in doubt as to a thing being right or wrong, go to your room and kneel down and ask His blessing upon it. Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31. If you cannot do this it is wrong. Rom. 14:3.
5. Never take your Christianity from Christians, or argue that because such people do so and so, therefore you may. 2 Cor. 4:2. You are to ask yourself, "How would Christ act in my place?" and strive to follow Him. Jno. 10:7; Matt. 16:24.
6. Never believe what you feel if it contradicts God's Word. Ask yourself, "Can what I feel be true?" Believe God and make your own heart the liar. Rom 3:4; 1 John 5:10-11.  
Isaac went by his feelings when he blessed Jacob. This is the only case in the Bible where a man went by his feelings, and this one went wrong. Gen. 27:19-23.
7. How may I be delivered from temptation? Pray at the moment tempted; be prepared to ward off the tempter by quoting some passages from God's Word. See Luke 22:40-46; Matt. 26:41; Matt. 4:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:15; Josh 1:8; Rev. 3:10; Jas. 1:2-6; 1 Cor. 10:13; Isa. 41:10; Isa. 26:3; Isa. 43:2; Job 23:10.—Christian Standard.

## INFLUENCE OF LITTLE THINGS

Often little things in life are like the slight movements of a railroad switch which change the destination of trains. "The flight of birds from north to south changed the course of Columbus' ships to the southern half of this