

## TO LIVE CHRIST—TO DIE GAIN

Rev. F. A. Dunlop

The New Year comes to us with challenge—the challenge of living. To the individual the experience of living is not so important as the manner of his living. That I live and how I live are not identical. That I live, I can scarcely claim responsibility for; how I live, throws the weight of responsibility upon me. Paul faced up to this responsibility and decided to do something about it. This something was to bring Christ into his living until that one word described it—"For me to live is Christ." It is safe to say that few men ever appreciated this fact as did Paul. First, he speaks of life from Christ: "I know that this shall turn to my salvation through the supply of the Spirit of Christ." Paul knew life only by continuous contact with the source of life. Anything that interfered with that contact cut off the life-giving current. Christ was so exclusively the source of life, in the mind of the apostle, that naught but death reigned elsewhere.

Second, he speaks of life for Christ: "Christ shall be magnified in my body." That puts importance into life. The very thought of magnifying Christ is an exalted one which seems to belong to some future and highly advantaged order, but Paul would realize such a ministry while in the body. This brings the possibility to our human level and to our every-day living. Christ needed to be better known in places where Paul would live, by lives he would contact. "Caesar's household," the guards of his prison cell, must see and know a larger Christ. Even his own "brethren in the Lord" must be inspired to preach more fearlessly. He refers to this as an obsession: "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death."

Third, he speaks of life with Christ. Here again we see how completely living, to the apostle, was projected into Christ. "For me to live is Christ." "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better." This not even death could alter, but for the better. What a faith to face the future with. "To abide, more needful," "To depart, better." The devil himself, couldn't beat a man like that. If I live,

"Christ shall be magnified," if I die, I shall be "with Christ." What could the devil do with a faith like that?

Now as we face the year, have we a faith like this? Maybe there is something in our spiritual mechanism that hinders the free flow of a faith like this. Something in our spirit, something in our behaviour, hinders us from magnifying Christ. What a pity that someone must think less of Christ because we live less than Christ! If we are to say with any degree of assurance, "For me to die is gain," we must determine that through the "supply of the spirit," for me to "live is Christ."

## THE FLAME FROM HEAVEN

Oh, the precious flame of God in the heart; the flame of God that comes to burn out sin and burn in holiness. I believe in a Saviour who does not only deal with the guilt and power of sin, but takes away the love of sin, and puts in its place a flame of passion for God, for charity, for holiness, for Jesus, for souls, for the world.

—Alan Redpath

## SHUT IN — SHUT OUT

(Cont'd from Page I)

cookies' coming back." There is balm in the physical ministrations the need for which only love can see.

Then there is the wide-opened door to that inner life to which, so often, the door gets pushed the wrong way in the rush and stress of physically active lives. I am not shut out from the wonderful world of prayer. (How little we know of its beauty and its power). Once we start to explore its mysteries, we are awed by its magnitude and order.

We are enthralled by its beauty and vitalized by its forces. In a peculiar way we find others venturing along the same paths, resting in the same secret places of the Most High, and drinking from the same fountain of living waters. How sweet to tarry a while together, sharing the joys and benefits of this healing realm.

I am shut in, but I am enclosed by the ever-widening bounds of the consciousness of love, kindness, mercy, and the peace that passeth understanding.

**BETHANY**

- ★ CHRISTIAN
- ★ EDUCATION
- ★ SCRIPTURAL
- ★ FUNDAMENTAL
- ★ WHOLESOME
- ★ TALENT
- ★ POTENTIAL
- ★ FAITH
- ★ VISION
- ★ PROGRESS
- ★ ACHIEVEMENT

MAKE THIS DAY

**FEB. 10**

A RED LETTER DAY FOR BETHANY

OBJECTIVE :- \$3000.00

- ★ ADORATION
- ★ HUMILITY
- ★ SIMPLICITY
- ★ DEVOTION
- ★ PRAYER
- ★ PRAISE
- ★ INSPIRATION
- ★ SACRIFICE
- ★ SERVICE
- ★ GIVING
- ★ BLESSING

**SUNDAY**