

NOT FIT TO COME.

The awakened sinner who has a knowledge of the gospel, knows that Christ only can save him. He knows that he cannot atone for his past sins, nor work out for himself a righteousness for the future! He knows that he must receive pardon and salvation, at the hands of Christ.

When Christ invites him to come and receive pardon, he is not ready to go. Ask him why he does not at once go as a lost, helpless sinner, to receive pardon and eternal life, and he says he has not feeling enough. He feels anxious and desires pardon. He confounds penitence with distress of mind. He is waiting for more feeling. That, he thinks, though he does not say so, will recommend him to the mercy of Christ.

Another does not go to Christ and receive pardon, because he is such a great sinner. He is not mistaken in regard to the fact that he is a great sinner. No sinner ever over-estimated his sinfulness. All men are greater sinners than they think they are.

But Christ's offer of pardon is not limited to moderate sinners. He has saved, and is willing to save, the chief sinners. No man who comes to him as a small sinner will be saved. No man who comes to him with an atonement for a part of his sins will be saved. He who comes to him as a penitent sinner, however great his sins, will be saved. Though his sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.

Another does not go to Christ, because he has not broken off from his sins. He has refrained from some open transgressions, and has tried to lead a new life; but he finds that his sins remain. He thinks he must not go to Christ till he has made himself better. Hence his delay.

Thus sinners do not go to Christ, because they are not fit to go. Those who persevere in their purpose of becoming fit, never go. Those who become convicted of their folly and sin in making terms which Christ has not made, and who see that they must go to him just as they are, and rely upon his promise for pardon and deliverance from sin, will be saved, or rather are saved.

"Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come!"

DR. JOSEPH ALDEN.

"WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?"

BY REV. T. L. CUYLER.

If life to a self-consecrated servant of Jesus Christ is rich and remunerative, there are thousands to whom it is a mere frolic. Its practical motto is, "Eat, drink, and be merry; to-morrow I die." This is a shocking suicide, even though it be done with jest and jollity. What sober faces some of these triflers will wear at the day of judgment! Mirth and madness here; remorse and ruin for evermore. The vapour of such Godless lives will turn into the smoke of torment which ascendeth from the eternal pit! Yet what a multitude of young men and women in our congregations have no other idea of life but a merry-making, or a chase after phantoms!

It is a tremendous truth, though constantly forgotten, that this vapour of human life never appears and disappears but once. "It is appointed unto men once to die." This we all admit; but do we as fully realize that it is appointed unto us only once to live? If we could come back hither from the unseen world, and try our probation over again, how differently would we use the golden hours! How busily that now indolent Christian would work! How faithfully we pastors would preach righteousness and the judgment to come! How eagerly that rich man would devote his money to the Lord's service! With what quick haste would that impenitent soul snatch the offered gift of salvation! Oh! how differently would we all live if the light of an actual visit into the eternal world were shining on a second probation!

But even as the leaves now lying under yonder tree will never touch those branches again, or be kissed by another summer's sun, so my life, and your life, my dear reader, will never have another moment of probation beyond the tomb. Verily it is now or never with us. It is either a life for Christ here, or an undying death without Him in the world to come! Which shall it be? Shall this fleeting vapour of existence glow like a rainbow, with God's smile of approval, or shall it darken into a cloud of wrath and blackness under His just frown?

Keep your heart's window always open toward heaven. Let the blessed light of Jesus' countenance shine in. It will turn tears into sunshine.—T. L. Cuyler.