

The Upward Look

Only Love Counts

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.—Galatians v., 6.

One of the most pitiful features of the worship of their idols by heathens is the ordeals they pass through trying to find spiritual peace. Like ancient monks, they hold the belief that only by punishing their bodies and undergoing great physical discomforts, and it may be hardships, can they hope to gain the approval of their gods and have their sins forgiven.

When we hear of these things we are in the realization that religion is a God of Love, and that He does not require us to do so. And yet we often forget this great truth and unconsciously adopt towards God the very attitude of these heathen towards their idols. How many Christians are there, for instance, who contribute liberally to church and charitable purposes in the hope of their doing well for the lack of love in their hearts towards God that should possess them? How many Sunday school teachers are teaching classes every Sunday, hoping this to please God when their main purpose should be to lead their scholars to love Christ? How many people pray long prayers for forgiveness and grace while all the time continuing to do things which their consciences whisper to them—when they listen to it—are wrong? How many people read their Bibles from a sense of duty instead of with a sincere desire to obtain spiritual enlightenment and guidance?

Unless the motive which prompts these acts is right the acts themselves can never accomplish anything for us. God reads our hearts and understands our motives. There are only two things which will help us, and these are both outlined in our text. They are faith and love, and both must work together. Nothing else, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, gifts of money, gifts of time, long prayers, nor Bible study will avail us anything. If true love to God and towards our fellowmen, as well as the faith which worketh by love, is lacking in our hearts all else goes for naught. Our own deeds can never save us.

In the third verse of the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians we read, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing." Could anything be more simple, more clear?

God wants only our love. He knows that when we once give Him that we will gladly give Him everything else that our love prompts us to believe that He desires of us. We will serve Him with rejoicing and not from a mistaken impression that our acts, without love, can ever gain His approval. Only love counts. There is no more important question, therefore, that we can ask ourselves, than whether or not the motives which are prompting our acts of service to God are such as God approves. If they are, our hearts will be at rest and uneasy misgivings will not trouble us. Where God reigns, peace and joy and love rule supreme.—I. H. N.

Fluted tescups are a difficulty to keep clean, especially where strong Ceylon tea is used. Rub them with kitchen salt, and the stains will disappear.

A Mending Kit

By Mrs. Annie D. Hall.

We hear of carpenter's kits, plumber's kits of all kinds, but nothing is said about a kit especially useful for a housekeeper—and it seems as if a busy housekeeper needs one if any one does. I have one and could not do without it now that I have learned its value. The foundation of it is a common splint basket, just such a one as you can buy almost anywhere for eight cents! I point it all in a pretty green, inside and out, then lined the inside with a row of tiny bags, each labeled plainly in outline stitch. There is a place for "tape," "twine," "buttons," thread, "yarn," "silk," "needles," "pins," "safety pins," etc. In fact, whatever is liable to be wanted in a household every day in the year. I find that I can save much time in this way, for I have a particular place for the basket and always keep it in that place when not in use. A similar kit for use when traveling can be made in a collapsible bag, and will be found very handy. This kit should always be furnished with sharp knife, buttonhole scissors, embroidery scissors, and shears, and as many articles may be added as circumstances seem to demand. Indeed, mine already seems to be outgrowing its space, and I am thinking of adding another splint basket!

A Great Labor-Saving Device

Grace Dutcher, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

One of the best labor saving devices is "not to worry." Worry uses up a tremendous amount of nervous energy and when one worries and frets and fusses over all they have to do they accomplish far less than one who takes life moderately.

Do you not remember the story of the Hare and the Tortoise? How that hare did fuss and keep looking back and even mocking the poor tortoise, who plodded on calmly and reached the goal first.

One can become as tired from worrying as from actual work. I have in mind a woman who lived to be about 80; she had done all her own work for many years if not always; kept her house in exquisite order; looked after her family; tended carefully to a flower and vegetable garden. She was unfrilled and cheerful; had always a kindly, thoughtful word for every one. When her friends came to see her, she would sit before them a dainty little lunch. Her brow was smooth; she always had a bright smile for young and old, and every day of her life from one until two o'clock she lay on her bed in her quiet room and slept or rested. She didn't worry.

Valuable Homely Hints

Clean brooms make clean carpets. Wash the brooms every fortnight, or once a week.

Low rooms will look higher if the curtains hang straight down without being tied up.

Avoid drinking water that has been standing some time in an open vessel. Draw it as required.

Put a hen in warm water the night previous to washing, for it facilitates the operation and less rubbing is needed.

Screws should be dipped in oil before use. They will slip into the wood far more easily.

A simple furniture polish ready at any moment is made of equal parts of boiled linseed oil, vinegar, and turpentine.

Dip a piece of flannel in paraffin and rub the windows hard, then with a clean flannel polish the windows till they shine.

You don't know how good looking

common linen towels are until you do them this way, and fine ones are their best. Pillowslip, being double, must have some work on both sides. Handkerchiefs are usually ironed to death. Iron once on the wrong side and put away. Fold for handkerchief boxes when you are resting.

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