

We are by the words of this "promise" brought into actual personal contact with the covenanted help of an all-sufficient God, and the perfect life of a real man. By it we "lift up" a perfect standard for our imitation. Paul said, "Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ"; and John declared, "We ought also to walk even as He walked." What will be the result to Christianity when we have a generation of Christians who realize that a Christian life means a life like Christ's? What will be the consequence when our young people, inspired by the spirit of this pledge, realize that they represent Christ in this world? What will be the kind of life lived when each one is fully possessed with the idea of the pledge, that he is here to do the Father's will, accomplish the Christ purpose, and be used of the Holy Spirit? This is not only the standard of Christian duty, but the ideal life that the triune God has undertaken to enable us to live.

The other clauses of the pledge are subordinate to the solemn covenant with God above set forth, and the means by which it is to be carried out. They are just such things as every Christian should do, and, it may be said, would do, without the pledge; then all the more reason for having an actual, attainable, ideal model for all who desire to be Christians. Those who observe these duties already will, by taking the pledge, inspire and encourage those who do not. And those who at first do them from a mere sense of duty, because of their promise, will soon learn to perform them with delightful pleasure. The performance of these required details will, without doubt, prove a great help in the building up of Christian character.

*Epworth League*: "That I will make stated seasons of private prayer and the daily study of the Bible the rule of my life."

*Christian Endeavor*: "That I will make it the rule of my life to pray and to read the Bible every day."

By "the rule of my life" is meant the regular customary habit. It clearly provides for such occasions and peculiar circumstances where it might be impossible to comply with the literal conditions of the promise. No Christian would think of living without private prayer. We cannot realize God or come into right relation with Him without personal communion.