

CANADA

CHRISTIAN WORKER

"WORK WHILE IT IS CALLED TO-DAY."

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CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE.

SINCERITY SEEKING THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

CHAPTER I.

Sincerity, a young man of twenty-one years, awoke one morning, and soliloquized with himself thus: "I have now arrived at manhood, and feel surprised when I think that twenty-one years of my life have fled, and I have not made the first effort to seek God. I am astonished at myself that I have lived this long without God, and without hope. I will remain in this condition no longer. If there is a man in this town who can show me the way to heaven, I will enter upon it before the setting of another sun. I will immediately cross the way to the residence of Mr. H., the Presiding Elder of the M. E. Church, an excellent man, who will readily show me the way to heaven." In a few minutes our young friend was rapping at the door of Mr. H. "Walk in," responded from within. "Good morning, Mr. S.," said the good man; "I trust I see you well." "Quite well, Mr. H., in body, but I have much concern of mind. I am, sir, alarmed, when I think that twenty-one years of my life are gone, and I am not a Christian! I have, therefore, called upon you, as a friend; to show me what I must do to be saved."

Honesty. Do you desire that I should pray for you?

Sincerity. I am ignorant of the way of salvation. I desire you to point out what the Lord requires me to do, that I may be saved. If it is for you to pray for me, for me to pray for myself, or anything else, I am ready to do it, that I may find salvation.

H. I will cheerfully pray for you, if you desire it, or anything else in my power for you.

S. Thank you, sir; truly am I grateful for your kindness. You, no doubt, realize the importance of my pursuing the proper course. I desire, above all things, to proceed according to the will of the Lord. I would not, for worlds, make any mistake where the salvation of my soul is in danger. If, therefore, the Lord requires me to be prayed for, that I may obtain the forgiveness of sins, I desire to do it.

H. I am truly rejoiced, my young friend, to find that you are anxious to seek the Lord. The Saviour says, "He who seeks shall find." I trust, then, you will give up your whole heart, and never cease seeking till you find rest to your soul.

S. That is now my intention; but you are aware that I am un-instructed, and do not know where or how to seek the Lord. Knowing, therefore, that you make it your business to teach "those ignorant out of the way," I have, with the utmost confidence, come to you, to show me what the Scriptures require me to do, that I may obtain the forgiveness of sins.

H. I would advise you, my dear young friend, to seek the Lord in prayer. Give up your whole heart to the Lord, and I trust he will

have mercy upon you. I would advise you to attend our prayer-meetings and the class. These are precious means of grace, through which thousands have been soundly converted to God.

S. Mr. H., I have brought my Bible with me; and, if you please, turn down a leaf at the place where these instructions may be found, that I may read them when alone. I desire to proceed according to Scripture.

H. I did not say that my advice was, in so many words, Scripture; but, after many years' reading and prayerful study, I give it to you as Scriptural advice.

S. Of course there are Scriptures instructing persons, in my condition, how to come to God, from which you deduced this advice. Will you mark some of the places, that I may consider them when in retirement? You know it is important that I should seek according to Scripture. I desire to proceed in such a manner as to enable me to claim the promises of God.

H. Yes, sir; but you need have no fears but you proceed correctly; for prayer is so frequently enjoined in Scripture, that you cannot fail to see that it is right. Beside, the Scriptures say, "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

S. I have no doubt that prayer is right, for I can recollect of reading of prayer in the Scriptures; but, not knowing where to find these passages, and especially where persons seeking the salvation of their souls were commanded to pray, or be prayed for, I desire you to turn down a leaf at a few places. Is the passage you quoted, "Blessed are they who mourn," etc., speaking of conversion?

H. I cannot say it is; but, as you are what we call a "mourner," I thought the language applicable in your case. As to prayer, the Apostle says, "I will, therefore, that men pray everywhere."

S. If that passage speaks of conversion, and is intended for men in my condition, I desire you to mark it here in my Bible. Was it addressed to persons seeking the Lord as I am, or Christians? I am desirous to have the Scripture that relates to my condition.

H. You, my dear young friend, are a *seeler*, and the Lord says, "I will be sought unto by prayer." Beside, you are a *mourner*, in anguish, on account of sin. It is right, therefore, that you should seek the Lord in prayer.

S. No doubt you are correct. I have the utmost confidence that you give me the proper instructions. I have heard of great numbers being converted in old times, but do not know where in the Bible to find the account of these cases. Will you, therefore, refer me to some place where the people came to the "mourner's bench," or the "altar of prayer," to pray and be prayed for? I desire to be certain that I am going according to Scripture.

H. My dear sir, how can you have doubts about prayer, when it is commanded in so many places in Scripture.

S. I have no doubt about it, but I simply desire you to point out some of those places where we read of such great numbers being con-

verted, that I may read for myself where such great numbers were commanded to come to the mourner's bench, or the altar of prayer, to pray and be prayed for. I desire to read these passages, because there are several things about it that I do not understand.

H. Perhaps you are unwilling to take my word!

S. Certainly, my dear sir, I am willing to take your word. If you tell me where I can find the passages, I have no doubt I shall find them as you say.

H. You seem to doubt, when I tell you that it is your duty, to seek the Lord in prayer, that I am right, and, consequently, keep calling for the Scriptures where prayer is required. I am afraid you will not be converted soon, if you continue to manifest such an unwillingness to pray.

S. I trust, sir, you will have patience with me; I am aware that I am ignorant, but you are able to enlighten me. Beside, I have not doubted your veracity at all. I am desirous to pray or do anything the Lord requires. But you must perceive that it is of the utmost importance that, when seeking the salvation of my soul, I should proceed according to the will of the Lord. Now, while I do not doubt that you can and will teach me correctly, and that it is my duty to pray, there are several things in regard to it that I consider it indispensable for me to know.

1. I desire to know who is commanded to pray for me.

2. I desire to know whether there is any promise that I shall be heard if I pray for myself.

3. I desire to know how often I should be prayed for, before I have the promise of pardon. It has occurred to me that I may be required to do something else as well as pray, and I am anxious to do my whole duty. Will you, therefore, point out to me those passages where such great numbers are said to have been converted?

H. If you are not willing to use the means of grace which I recommend, and which have proved a blessing to so many thousand souls, I fear, sir, that I cannot be of any service to you.

S. I am perfectly willing to use any means of grace, and anxious to do so, required in the Scriptures. But I am anxious to use the means of grace according to Scripture. Therefore, I desire you to refer me to those Scriptures which give us an account of so many thousands using the means of grace, that I might proceed as they did!

H. I presume, sir, you are acquainted with our practice with those who seek salvation; and if you believe in our way, and will go with us, we will do you all the good and give you all the assistance in our power; but if you have no confidence in us, we can do you no good.

S. I have the utmost confidence in you; but you have occasionally exhorted us to read the Scriptures, and I cannot understand why you refuse to refer me to those passages which speak of the conversion of such vast numbers, that I may read for myself where they were commanded to pray and be prayed for, and whatever else they were commanded to do, and do the

same. You believe they were converted right, I presume?

H. Certainly they were.

S. Please then, sir, refer me to the passages, as I must now leave, that I may reflect upon them till I see you again.

H. I would advise you to read the Psalms of David, and attend our prayer-meeting on next Thursday night.

S. I will do so. Good-bye.
(To be Continued.)

CALEDON EAST, Dec. 19th 1881.

DEAR BRO. SHERMAN,—Although I have not had the pleasure of seeing you in the flesh, your name has become quite familiar to me, and I feel quite pleased to make your acquaintance by writing you. I am also pleased to know that you have published the *Christian Worker*. My son, Walter E. C. Arldige, of Meaford, has been very kind in subscribing to the paper for me. (I think if the paper was a little thicker it would be an improvement.) I have received the first number, and I like it very much. I noticed several articles written by brethren that I am well acquainted with, and while I was reading their articles, it seemed as though they had come to pay me a visit. May the Lord bless them in their efforts in disseminating truths that will be calculated to enlighten those who are still in Babylon, and also in building up the Church of Christ. The *Christian Worker* has begun well, but, according to the old adage, it is better to continue well, and I hope the *Christian Worker* will be so conducted as to gain a wide circulation outside of the Church of Christ, I would like to see some articles from our beloved brothers Lister and Sterling, and in fact any of our dear Meaford brethren. We are so situated that we can not come to hear them speak, but they can speak to us through the *Christian Worker*. Dear brother Sherman, I informed my son, Walter, that I would send you an address delivered by our beloved and learned brother, J. B. Rosterham, soon after he became a member of the Church of Christ. If all is well, I will write it out for you, so that you will be able to publish it in the February number of the *Christian Worker*. I believe it will be very interesting to the brethren generally to know something of this great and good man's antecedents, I remember him paying me a visit when I was living in a place called Blocton, Osean, England, a village of about one thousand seven hundred inhabitants. I invited him to go with me and preach on a knoll in the village, so he agreed to go. And I remember Bro. Norton, of Banbury, accompanied us to the place. It was a regular old preaching stand. He took for his text, the 27th v. of the 10th chap. of Matthew. He dwelt on the words, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," and he preached, as you might expect, a most eloquent and able discourse. And I remember, after he closed the meeting there was a gentleman came up to him and shook hands with him, and told him that it had been announced for him to preach there that evening, but he did not see any necessity for him to say anything after hearing such a discourse. But the best discourse I

ever heard him deliver, was on the 7th verse, of the 16th chap. of Romans. He made a regular clean sweep of Calvinism. Now, dear Bro., as my paper is nearly filled, I must beg to close.

With christian love to you, and all the Meaford brethren, believe me to remain,

Yours in the one hope,
CHRIS. ARLIDGE.

BAPTISM NOT IN THE PLACE OF CIRCUMCISION

The following is from a learned Pedobaptist, and should certainly carry great weight even with the opponents of immersion:

"In fact when Christ appointed any institution for objects solely dependent on his will, that very fact excludes all other ordinary means. When he instituted 'baptism' as a means of washing away sin, that very institution excluded any other way of obtaining that benefit." Cardinal Wiseman, on principles, doctrines, and practices of the Catholic Church, page 21, lecture 10.

Thus you see, brother Law, you are in learned company, and though they do not practice what they know to be true, yet they do not place baptism in the stand of circumcision.

JOHN FIRTH.

WHAT OUR EXCHANGES THINK OF US.

We have received the first number of *The Christian Worker*, edited and published by H. B. Sherman, Meaford, Ontario—a monthly at 30 cents a year. It is made up mostly of brief articles, yet finds room for some of considerable length and solidity. Our readers know this indefatigable evangelist, and need not be told that good sense, practical wisdom, and devotion to the truth mark his paper as they do his preaching. It can be made serviceable in Canada, and we hope it will receive a liberal support.—*Christian Standard*.

We have received the first number of the *Christian Worker*, published and edited by H. B. Sherman, of Meaford, Ontario. It is a monthly sheet, with the subscription price placed at 30 cents a year, and \$2.50 for a club of ten. We extend to this new "candidate for Christian favor" a hearty welcome, knowing, as we do, that Bro. Sherman is sound in the faith, a competent instructor, zealous and energetic, full of faith, willing to work anywhere for the Master, and ambitious to excel in whatever he undertakes. We have reason to believe that he will not disappoint the expectations of our Canadian brethren, but, with the aid of the *Christian Worker*, help to advance our common cause in the Queen's Dominions. We trust that he may meet with great success in this new venture.—*Le Review*.

Christian Worker, of Meaford, published in the interest of the Disciples, one of the many sects finding a lodgement in this town, long noted for its peculiar religious character. The Disciples have over 700,000 of a brotherhood in the United States, and the late President Garfield was one of their number.—*British Weekly*.