

"Will My Case be Called To-day?"



MAN had an important case pending in court. The time for trial arrived, and meeting his counsel who had it in charge, he said, "Will my case be called to-day? Are you sure that nothing is left undone? If judgment is pronounced against me, I am a ruined man." His earthly all hung upon the results of that trial; the decisive day had come, and he was anxious to meet the issue successfully.

There is a greater day which draws near, a day when every man's case is sure to be called. There will be no postponement, and there can be no appeal. The issues are vital; the decisions are for eternity. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." What will be the issue of that solemn judgment? Has everything been done that can be done to make an acquittal sure? How is it with each one of us? God loves us and longs to save us. He offers to us the privilege of coming near to Him, and finding peace through the blood of the Cross, that we may thus have boldness in the Day of Judgment.

And yet, how many utterly neglect a preparation for that day.

Be and Then Do.



THERE is a great difference between *being* and *doing* good. Some people suppose that if a man will only *do* good he is certain to be good. But a man may do a great many good things and yet lack the element of goodness within. He may do them to be seen of men, or to deceive people, to obtain a reputation and secure larger opportunities for the com-

mission of crime; and so his well-doing may prove only a cloak for all iniquity.

The Divine order is not, first *do* and then *be*, but first *be* and then *do*. The fountain is to be made sweet, and then the waters may be expected to be pure. The tree must be made good, and then the fruit will not be corrupt. The beginning of all reformation and righteousness must be in the grace and power of God, through whom we are *born again*, or *created anew in Christ Jesus*, and thus prepared for service in Christ's cause.

We are not to wait until after we have done many good things, and then expect we shall be-

come good as a result of our actions; but we are the rather to go just as we are to Jesus, the Saviour of the lost; to God, who loves and pities perishing men; and, having done this, and having been renewed in the spirit of our minds, we are then prepared for service in the Master's cause, and for all well-doing—*The Safeguard*.

Fruit Bearing.

HERE, then, is what the Lord seeks from every one of us—*fruit*. A master comes to his garden. He turns over leaves of pear and plum trees, and he looks along the branches of the

peach trees. "Trees look very healthy, don't they, sir," says the gardener, in a satisfied way. Then they pass into the orchard. "Nice trees these, sir," observes the gardener. Then they turn to the hot-houses: "Vines look very promising," says the gardener. At last the master speaks, "What in the world is the use of healthy trees, and of choice sorts, and of promising plants? I don't want green leaves; I want fruit. And if you can't get it, I must find somebody that can." So the Lord of the vineyard comes to us for fruit. Good desires, good feelings, good endeavours, all our praying, counts for nothing unless there be some fruit.—*Mark Guy Pearse*.

THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 19.

What **SEEK** ye. John i. 38.
SEEK ye the Lord while He may be found. Isaiah lv. 6.
SEEK ye Me, and ye shall live. Amos v. 4.



Hste thee, wanderer, tarry not;
 At the cross there's room!
 Seek that consecrated spot;
 At the cross there's room;
 Thoughtless sinner, come to-day
 At the cross there's room;
 Hark! the Bride and Spirit say,
 At the cross there's room!
 Now a living fountain see,
 Opened there for you and me.
 Rich and poor, for bond and free:
 At the cross there's room!

Those that **SEEK** Me early shall find Me. Prov. viii 17.
SEEK Him with all thine heart. Deut. iv. 29.
 Thy face, Lord, will I **SEEK**. Psalm xxvii. 8.