

The Upward Look

God Has Untied You to Him

"O F God are ye in Christ Jesus, who was made unto us wisdom from God, both righteous and sanctification, and redemption."—1 Cor. 1: 30 (R. V. marg.)

"My Father is the Husbandman."—John 15: 1.

"Ye are in Christ Jesus." The believers at Corinth were still feeble and weak, only barely in Christ. And yet Paul wanted them, at the outset of his teaching, to know distinctly that they are in Christ Jesus. The whole Christian life depends on the clear consciousness of our position in Christ. Most essential to the abiding in Christ is the daily renewal of our faith's assurance. "I am in Christ Jesus." All fruitful preaching, to be effective, must take this as its starting-point: "Ye are in Christ Jesus."

But the apostle has an additional thought, of almost greater importance: "Of God are ye in Christ Jesus." He would have us not only remember our union to Christ, but especially that it is not our own doing, but the work of God Himself. As the Holy Spirit teaches us to realize this, we shall see what a source of assurance and strength it must become to us. If it is of God alone that I am in Christ, then God Himself, the Infinite One, becomes my security for all I can need or wish in seeking to abide in Christ.

Let me try and understand what it means, this wonderful "Of God in Christ." In becoming partakers of the union with Christ, there is a work God does and a work we have to do. God does His work by moving us to do our work. The work of God is hidden and silent; what we do is something distinct and tangible. Conversion and faith, prayer and obedience, are conscious acts of which we can give a true account; while the spiritual quickening and strengthening that come from above are secret and beyond the reach of human sight. And so it comes that when the believer tries to say, "I am in Christ Jesus," he looks more to the work he did, than to that wondrous secret work of God by which he was united to Christ. But can it well be otherwise at the commencement of the Christian course. "I know that I have believed," is a valid testimony. But it is of great consequence that the mind should be led to see that at the back of our turning, and believing, and accepting of Christ, there was God's almighty power doing its work,—inspiring our will, taking possession of us, and carrying out its own purpose of love in placing us into Christ Jesus.

The words will lead him even further and higher, even to the depths of eternity. "Whom He hath predestinated unto Himself." The calling in time is the manifestation of the purpose in eternity. Ere the world was, God had fixed the eye of His merciful love on the elect in the election of grace, and chosen them in Christ. That thou knowest thyself to be in Christ, is the stepping-stone by which thou risest to understand in its full meaning the word, "Of God I am in Christ Jesus."

Nothing will more exalt free grace, and make man how very low before it, than this knowledge of the mystery "Of God in Christ Jesus."

It is easy to see what a mighty influence it must exert on the believer who seeks to abide in Christ. What a sure standing-ground it gives him, as he sees the right to Christ and all His fulness on nothing but the Father's own purpose and work! We have thought of Christ as the Vine, and the believer as the branch; let us now be forced that, however precious word, "My Father is the Husbandman." What confident trust this faith in gives,—not only as to the being kept

in safety to the end, but specially as to the being able to fulfil in every point the object for which I have been united to Christ. The branch is as much in the charge and keeping of the husbandman as the vine; his honour as much concerned in the well-being and growth of the branch as of the vine. The God who chose Christ to be the Vine fitted Him thoroughly for the work He had as Vine to perform. The God who has chosen me, and planned me in Christ, has thereby engaged to secure, if I will, but let Him, by yielding myself to Him, that I in every way be worthy of Christ Jesus. Oh that I did but fully realize this! What confidence and urgency it would give to my prayer to the God and Father of Christ Jesus! How it would quicken the same of dependence, and make me see that praying without ceasing is indeed the one need of my life,—an unceasing waiting, moment by moment, on the God who has united me to Christ, to perfect His own Divine work, to work in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

And what a motive this would be for the highest activity in the maintenance of a fruitful branch! Motives are mighty powers. It is of finite importance to have them high and clear. Here surely is the highest: "You are God's workmanship,"

WANTED—A HOME.

Mr. Hugh Ferguson, Inspector of the Children's Aid Society, Stratford, Ont., desires to make known to Farm and Dairy readers that he is in search of a home for a little boy, three years of age. This little fellow is healthy, pleasing in appearance and disposition, and desires a home with a good Roman Catholic family, one of our folks who would like to take this little boy into their home, may secure fuller information by communicating with Mr. Ferguson.

created in Christ Jesus unto good works," granted by Him to Christ, unto the bringing forth of much fruit. Whatever God creates is exquisitely suited to its end. He created the sun to give light; how perfectly it does its work! He created the eye to see; how beautifully it fulfils its object! He created the new man unto good works; how admirably it is fitted for its purpose.

Of God I am in Christ: created anew, made a branch of the Vine, fitted for fruit-bearing. Would God that believers would cease looking most at their old nature, and complaining of their weakness, and in God called them to what they were unfitted for! Would that they would believingly and joyfully accept the wondrous revelation of their God, in uniting them to Christ, have made Him their strength for their spiritual growth and fruitfulness! How all sickly hesitancy and sloth would disappear, and under the influence of this mighty motive—the faith in the faithfulness of Him of whom they are in Christ—their whole nature would rise to accept and fulfill their glorious destiny!

Note—A selection from Rev. Andrew Murray's book, "Abide in Christ," a copy of which may be secured through Farm and Dairy if desired for 60 cents.

If there were not a possibility of our being wrong while we should not be here. There is something for us to attain, this some one who needs our help, some good work we can do. Does all this sound idle because we have heard it so often? But have we ever really believed it, and are we acting upon it, day by day? If we are, then however high the goal, the place, one thing is sure, we are not among those who are fretting over fear as a failure.

The Community Canning Kitchen

TO the women of Ontario must be given the credit for originating one of the most effective means of canning foods for the military hospitals at home and abroad—the community canning kitchen. The community canning kitchen is not a new idea. Other countries have used it before us. It is the special form which the canning kitchen has taken in Ontario however; that is to be credited to our women.

The basic organization upon which the canning centre is built is the Women's Institute. Here we have a canning centre in the whole province, especially the rural districts. The Department of Agriculture furnishes the complete equipment and also an instructor in any community where a canning centre is established for Red Cross purposes. The Women's Institute branch supplies a building with suitable water supply and drainage. With such equipment as steam supply, copper kettles, vats, pulping machine, sealing machine for tin cans, a sink, and so forth, canning becomes a simple, speedy and efficient operation. In some places where these canning centres have been established, Red Cross societies have offered to supply tin cans, labels, cases, sugar, kerosene for pickles and spices for all products prepared for the Red Cross.

At the recent annual meeting of the Women's Institute branches of East and West Victoria county, Mr. J. W. Clarke, Gainsville, Ont., advised the branches very strongly to take up community canning. He pointed out that in several districts throughout the province this work has been undertaken. Last year the first canning kitchen was established at Parkhill, Ont., and it is expected that 10,000 chickens will be canned at this point during 1918. All kinds of vegetables and fruits, as well as chickens may be canned and the work done rapidly.

While these canning centres are being originated primarily for the canning of supplies for our boys overseas, there is an added advantage in that women can bring their own products and have them canned very quickly. Mr. Clarke told us that jelly can be made in seven minutes, which is quite a difference from our lengthy operations over a hot stove. Some of us have more or less trouble when canning fruit or vegetables through spoilage. It was pointed out by Mr. Clarke that where there is steam pressure, such as is used at the canning centres, danger of spoilage is reduced to a minimum.

It is interesting to note that a community canning kitchen will be operated at Guelph, Ont., by the Guelph Creamery Company during the present season. This company has offered the free use of a portion of the building for a cannery and will also supply the steam from their boilers. On community days any person may bring fruit or vegetables, sugar, etc., and have them canned at small cost. The proceeds go to the Red Cross. On days other than community days the fruit and vegetables donated will be put up for the Red Cross and sent overseas. Here, too, the Department of Agriculture provides the sugar, spices, etc., required. The Women's Institutes of Wellington county have promised donations of chickens, tomatoes, apples and various other vegetables and fruits. Besides the Women's Institutes branches, several other organizations, including the Red Cross Society and Food Resources Committee of Guelph, are deeply interested in this community kitchen.

Although the community canning centre is a war measure, being an important means of conserving food, it should also have its uses in times of peace. The advantages which it gives over individual effort are now being realized and in all probability will bring a permanent change in the methods of food preserving for home use.

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