

"What, Could Ye Not Watch with Me One Hour?"

"One hour!" How short a space of time, as we know in our daily experience. How many precious hours we waste in frivolous amusements! But they are neither measured nor grudging. Yet amidst the worldly we are told that "twenty-five minutes is the proper time for a sermon!" Yet four hours are not too long for an opera or a concert! Time flies then on golden wings, in a cramped seat, in an atmosphere of gas, and the unwholesome breath of a crowded audience, and they depart regretting it is over. Four hours in the theater, but twenty-five minutes to hear the awful truths of death, and heaven, and hell!

How can you expect to enjoy heaven—if you reach it—who never gave one hour to prayer and meditation in your quiet closet, apart from the world? We are told by an earnest minister, "when we die we go to that place for which we are preparing ourselves," and that will be for eternity, never to change again! And yet in all life's uncertainty this awful truth is put away from the thoughts of most of us, that in a moment our breath may cease, the heart beat no more, and we depart to our everlasting abode.

No repentance then will be possible. The loving Saviour we rejected here, and his offer of forgiveness; he, who is too pure to behold iniquity, from whose divine splendor the angels veil their faces, will then be your Judge!

Alone you must die! Alone face the unknown terrors of an eternity for which you have never striven to prepare! Oh, turn at once to the loving Saviour! Lay down the burden of your sins at his feet, and seek his pardon now, if you value your soul; whose value the merciful Redeemer knew when he laid down his life for you.

A Triumph of Peace.

That the organization of the world is to come soon is a certainty. No prophet need hesitate to say that the whole world will soon, in all its sundered parts, be linked together in alliances of various kinds. Because the lower primitive, self-protecting instincts are necessarily strongest, they will first suggest the bonds of union. The love of power, the love of wealth, and the love of ease impel men to make mighty exertions to secure their ends. But at last we have learned the lesson that the cheapest way to get what everybody wants is to stop fighting and agree to share the earth and its products. In order that such plans shall not be conceived in greed and born in iniquity, it is desirable that those who believe in justice and liberty and peace shall also make their plans for the organization of the world, in order that the primitive instincts of powerful men and nations may find their masters. Justice and fair dealing are so advantageous to all men that, when they are established, all will gladly obey. A federation of moral interests is quite as feasible as a combination for business ends, and cannot long be delayed.—Church Register.

Beeswax and salt will make your rusty flat irons as clean and smooth as glass. Tie a lump of wax in a rag and keep it for that purpose. When the irons are hot, rub them first with the wax rag, then scour with a paper or cloth sprinkled with salt.

Our Young People

Communion and Transformation.

Ex. 34: 29-35; Luke 9: 27-29.

The Christian Endeavor Prayer Meeting for August 31.

Nothing in the physical world is a better illustration of the influence of life than the sense of smell. Objects are all the time sending forth minute particles of themselves. Place a tiny drop of some perfume upon a handkerchief, and it will give of itself through the entire day, and to every one that approaches. A tiny package of fragrant powder will perfume a drawer for a century, and at the end weigh as much on our dull scales as at the beginning. The hound's nose takes cognizance of these infinitesimal atoms thus thrown off, and from a single sniff at an article of clothing can follow its owner for leagues through the forest.

Just as real, and even more subtle, is the fragrance that is thrown off from character. It is a common remark of husband and wife together through long years, that they come actually to look alike. Communion has brought about transformation, just as the communion of the rose leaf with the garment in whose folds it is laid makes the garment fragrant like itself.

Now if all this is so wonderfully true with regard to mere things and men, we may be sure that it will prove even more marvelously true of our communion with the Maker of things and men. It only a glance of a friend's eye can encourage us for a whole day, if only a touch of some subtle essence can perfume an entire room, what must be the power of God's eye, the touch of God's hand, the fragrance of His beautiful presence!

How strange that men appreciate the advantages of friendship with other men, but are so practically sceptical of the advantages of friendship with God! No time spent with Him is lost. When you are most busy, you need to spend most time with Him. When the throngs of worldly cares press most persistently, then most do you need the communion with God alone which will transform your weakness into His power, and your ignorance into His perfect wisdom.

Our Members Testify.

The novelist, James Lane Allen, compares prayer to music shut up within the soul, and says that if it is continued through long years of inner melody, after a while the outer expression comes to vibrate in harmony with it, and the loveliness of the face images the beauty of the mind. Any one can prove for himself that this is true.

The best treatise on prayer ever written is Austin Phelps' assertion that "no large growth in holiness was ever gained by one who did not take time to be often and long alone with God." He might well have added that no growth in happiness is possible without this:

The following little poem beautifully describes the experience a true Christian will have in prayer:—

"To stretch my hand and touch Him,
Though He be far away;
To raise my eyes and see Him
Through darkness as through day;
To lift my voice and call Him—
This is to pray!

"To feel a hand extended
By One who standeth near;
To view the one that shineth
In eyes serene and clear;
To know that He is calling—
This is to hear!"

St Bernard said once, "We must retire inward if we would ascend upward." The kingdom of heaven within us is the road to the kingdom of heaven above us.

Christianity is not something that is read in a book, however much it is believed; it is something that is lived in the life. It is impossible for religion to be disconnected from a person. No one knows anything about communion with God until he has personally experienced it.

Lost Opportunities.

We awake to the value of opportunities after they are lost. Esau had his chance, but he bartered it away for a mess of red pottage. Afterward he realized what he had lost and would have given all he had to have the opportunity over again. But the recognition came too late. He found no place of repentance though he sought it diligently with tears. Jerusalem had its chance. Jesus came to his own. But his own received him not. What an opportunity Jerusalem missed! If its people had only known the things that belonged unto their peace! Ah, yes, if they had only known! But, alas, they did not know the day of their visitation; they saw no beauty in Christ that they should desire him, so they did unto him whatsoever they listed. They called him a blasphemer, a madman, a devil, and they hanged him between two thieves. They know their mistake now. They have looked upon him whom they pierced, and they mourn. But the recognition has come too late. The opportunity has passed away. Lost opportunities! Our days and years are strewn with them, littered with them. We thought little of them at the time, but how great they seem as they look back.

"Tis only when they spring to heaven that angels

Reveal themselves to you; they sit all day Beside you and lie down at night by you, Who care not for their presence, muse or sleep, And all at once they leave you and you know them!"

—London Independent.

For Daily Reading.

Mon., Aug. 25—Lonely prayer. Matt. 14: 22-27
Tues., Aug. 26—Paul's three years. Gal. 1: 11-18
Wed., Aug. 27—Elijah's retirement. 1 Kings 17: 1-6

Thurs., Aug. 28—Moses and the bush. Exod. 3: 1-6
Fri., Aug. 29—Samuel at night. 1 Sam. 3: 1-10
Sat., Aug. 30—Jonah's prayer. Jonah 2: 1-10
Sun., Aug. 31—Topic. Communion and transformation. Exod. 34: 29-35; Luke 9: 28, 29

All canned vegetables should be opened and set a-ide, if possible out of doors, for some time, perhaps half an hour, before using. Thus the oxygen, removed in the process of canning, is restored to them, and with it much of the fresh taste.

What is this book, the Bible? It is not a bag of precept, but a bundle of biographies. The Lord teaches truth by incarnations. Ten times as much space is given to the history of Abraham as to the creation of the world.