

## HOW LONG?

1. How long have I got to live? I do not know. Life is very uncertain. The strong often die before the weak, and the young before the old. This very year may be my last. And if I die this year, am I ready to leave the world? Are my sins forgiven? Is my heart changed, and intune for Heaven? Ought I not to think of that?

2. How long shall I have to get ready for death, when my last illness comes? Some people die very suddenly. Not all have time to settle their soul business before they go. Many are carried off insensible, and can neither speak, nor think, nor pray, nor give a sign. How long will it be with me? Shall I be found prepared to meet God?

3. How long do I mean to halt between two opinions, if I am not ready to die? What am I waiting for? Christ has often knocked at the door of my heart, and I have often refused to open the door. And why? What reason can I give for delay? Is it because I am lazy, worldly, and unwilling to give up my sins?

4. How long will be the life to come after death? It will be forever. It will never end. While I live, I may be changed by the Holy Ghost, and become a Christian. After I die, there will be no more change. If I am saved, I shall be for ever in Heaven, with God, and Christ, and saints, and angels. Shall I like this? If I am lost, I shall be forever in hell, and never, never come out!

O my soul, consider these things. Make sure work. Lay firm hold on Christ, and be wise. — *Bishop Ryle.*

## THE JOY OF DECISION.

"Do you dance?" we asked a young miss.

"I do not dance now," she said, "I have given it up. For a long time I danced. My conscience opposed it. My mother disapproved it. Becoming a Christian, I found that I could not conscientiously longer engage in it."

In a later conversation on the same subject, when the decision of some other ladies to dance no more was reported at the family circle, the same young lady remarked:

"I am glad to hear that. There is such pleasure in a fixed decision. I enjoy the right so much more when I have

finally and positively decided in favor of it."

In wavering is utter unrest. Indecision is a thorn in the pillow. When the will does not assert itself as intellect and conscience direct clouds gather over the soul and sorrow smites.

He is the happiest who makes up his mind, puts his foot firmly down, dismisses forever any possibility of going back to his own practice, and walks forward with the self-respect which always comes from the consciousness of decisive action. — *S. S. Journal.*

## "IS THE LINK ON?"

I was waiting at the railway station one day, when I saw a porter, who was attaching a number of heavy laden cars and engine by a single link: "When you have connected the engine with the carriages," I said, "I presume the train can be moved?"

"Yes, sir," he replied.

"Then the engine does all the work?"

"Oh yes, sir."

"And when that link is on, the engine will convey the train to its destination?"

"Yes, sir, if it don't break."

"Well now let us ask you another question. Are you linked to Christ in heaven? Shall I tell you what the link is? Faith is the name of the link; faith connects with Christ: He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.' Just as that engine does all the work, and by its strength conveys all the carriages to their destination, securely has Christ done all the work for a poor sinner and, all that believe on Him are connected with Him, and He will convey them safely to glory. God's 'hath' will never, never fail. Tell me now, is the link on? Do you believe in Christ?"

"No, sir," replied the man, "this link is not on."

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, and you will find that God's link never breaks. That 'hath' of God never gave way yet, and never will." Just at that moment the signal sounded for my train to move on, and as I was borne away I called out, "Good night, may the Lord enable you to believe."

Dear reader, let me ask you seriously. Is the link on? Are connected with Christ who is in heaven? Have you believed the love of God? Have you received His son, the Lord Jesus Christ? And remember, God's "link" never breaks.