

Are We Doing The Best We Can?

We may not be able to do as well as we would like to do. We may not even be able to do as well as our neighbor does. But we are able to do as well as we can do. God, who sees us as we are, and understands our lack of power and our desire for more power than we have, will judge us according to our doing within our limits of power and in our circumstances. Have we done in all things to-day as well as we could do in view of our ability and circumstances, and of our understanding of duty? Are we doing our best just now? We ought to be.—S. S. Times.

Doing Little Things.

It is the doing of the little things that accomplishes the great thing. The waiting to do the great thing is only the waiting; neither the great thing nor the little thing is done in that way. Old Doctor Johnson used to say: "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do any. . . . To found a university may not be in our power, but we can give a cup of cold water in the name of Christ." Our real measure of ability and willingness is in our doing the little that we can do, and not the great deal that we would like to do.—Parish Visitor.

Easter Thoughts

You should not fear, nor yet should you wish for, your last day.—Marial.

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.—Luther.

Easter is the season at which Christians should rekindle in themselves, and so, by a blessed contagion, in others, the sense of immortality.—Liddon.

The return of Easter should be to the Christian life the call of a trumpet. It is the news of a great victory. It is the solution of a great perplexity. It is the assurance of a great triumph.—Frederick Temple.

The resurrection is full of joy to the bereaved. It clothes the grave with flowers, and wreathes the tomb in unfading laurel. The sepulchre shines with a light brighter than the sun, and death grows fair as we say, in full assurance of faith, "My brother shall rise again."—C. H. Spurgeon.

At Christmas-time we looked on the face of the Babe, and wondered with the shepherds and adored with the angels; we have followed him through the years as he went in and out of his mother's house; we do not know when the consciousness of his real Father came to him, but we have seen him thrilling under it; we have traced him through his years of ministry; we have sorrowed with him in Gethsemane; we have stood before his cross, but there our sympathy failed, when, oh, wonder of wonders, we found that we had died with him and risen again! Death hath no more dominion over us. We are sons and daughters of the Resurrection.—Maltbie D. Babcock, D.D.

Never mind whereabouts your work is. Never mind whether it be visible or not. Never mind whether your name is associated with it. You may never see the issues of your toils. You are working for eternity. If you cannot see the results here in the hot working day, the cool evening hours are drawing near, when you may rest from your labors and then they may follow you. So do your duty and trust God to give the seed you sow "a b-y as it hath pleased him."—Alexander MacLaren.

Our Young People

April 10. Two Standards.

Some Bible Hints.

The world's standards conflict with Christ's fundamentally in the matter of love (Matt. 5: 43, 44). We shall come to God's standard in all things if we love what He loves.

Never listen so eagerly to the world's say-so that you cannot hear Christ's "But I say unto you" (Matt. 5: 44).

If we cannot serve God and Mammon at the same time, certainly we cannot love them at the same time (1 John 2: 15).

Geology and astronomy have shown us how literally true it is that the world passeth away, and science should turn our thoughts toward heaven and eternity (1 John 2: 17).

Suggestive Thoughts.

Here we speak of "the almighty dollar." In heaven gold is used for street paving.

Christ's standard of length is eternity, of liquid measurement is the "cup of cold water," of Troy weight is purity of heart.

Men try to avoid testing their easy-going lives by any standard; but no standard, in this case, is a false standard. Those that are not with Christ are against Him.

As a penny held near us will shut out the sun, so the nearer we come to the world's standards, the more they shut out the divine ideals.

A Few Illustrations.

A false balance means falsehood in every dealing, and a false standard in life vitates every action.

The difference between a foot rule of twelve inches and a foot-rule of eleven and three-fourths inches is an irreconcilable difference; so is the difference between God's standard and man's.

The world makes its standards look like Christ's, just as a short yard-stick is divided into the proper number of inches.

For the standard weights and measures we must go to some central office; but every Christian carries with him his spiritual test weights and measures—in his conscience.

To Think About.

Not what standard I have set up, but what standard am I following?

Am I eager to set up before the eyes of men the standard of the Cross?

Do I constantly test my ideals by the Bible?

A Cluster of Quotations.

The twofold heart must mistake. It is hard for a rich man, just because he is a rich man, to enter into the Kingdom of heaven.—Mardonald.

This world is all a fleeting show.

There's nothing true but heaven.—Moore.

The world will freely agree to be Christians to-morrow, if Christ will permit them to be worldly to-day.—Arnot.

Christians were put into the atmosphere of this world to purify it, and not to be poisoned by it.—Cuyler.

With whatever darkness thou mayest surround thy works, yet God is light.—Tertullian.

To be misunderstood by those one loves is the cross and bitterness of life. It is the cruellest trial of self-devotion; it is what most oftenest have wrung the heart of the Son of Man and if God could suffer, it is the wound we should be forever inflicting on him.—Selected.

A Word in Season.

At a private meeting of friends George Whitfield adverted to the difficulties of a Gospel minister, adding what was his consolation, that it would soon be over. Asking the brethren if they did not often feel the same, most of them assented, except a Dr. Tennat. Whitfield tapped him on the knee, saying, "You are the oldest man here, are you not rejoicing that your time is so near at hand to be called home?" Dr. T.—bluntly replied, "I have no wish in the matter." Being pressed for something more definite and decided, he added, "I have nothing to do with death; my business is to live as long as I can, and live as well as I can, serve my Master as faithfully as I can, until He shall think proper to call me home." Thus it proved a word in season to the great evangelist, helping him more calmly and patiently to hold on his way.—Thos. D. Brown.

God Our Reward.

Christian joy is character and confidence in God. Happiness depends upon circumstances. Joy depends upon character. The one is a cistern, the other is a fountain. The Christian may rejoice in tribulations; the worldling never can. "Rejoice evermore," is the perennial privilege of a child of God. Joy in trial comes from knowing that trial is God's servant to bring a greater blessing and a deeper joy. Earth's afflictions cannot disturb Christian joy, for we know that "all things work together for good to them who love God." Paul could rejoice in prison, since prison was God's choice for his servant. To know that Christ is ruling in our lives is the secret of deep, abiding joy.

Easter Thoughts.

After the winter of our doubt,
The midnight of our sorrow,
Daybreak is flooding the whole world,
And lighting up the morrow;
Death is no longer king of all,
He keeps no soul in prison,
We have an Easter festival,
For Christ the Lord is risen.

—Marianne Farningham.

No one can raise a finger against you, if you are a child of God, without the permission of God.

Christ will cast out self or self will cast out Christ. Which shall it be in your case?

Trust God in the present, and you need fear no evil in the future.

The wise do send their hearts before them to dear, blessed Heaven, despite the veil between.—C. G. Rossetti.

Daily Readings.

Mon., Apr. 4.—Resistance of evil.	Matt. 5: 38-42
Tues., Apr. 5.—Purity.	Matt. 5: 27-32
Wed., Apr. 6.—Hatred.	Matt. 5: 21-26
Thurs., Apr. 7.—Kingliness.	John 18: 33-38
Fri., Apr. 8.—Unselfishness.	John 10: 11-15
Sat., Apr. 9.—Ministering to others.	Matt. 25: 41-46
Sun., Apr. 10.—Topic—How the world's standards conflict with Christ's.	Matt. 5: 43-48; 1 John 2: 15-17.