

BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

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What is your Life?



It may help to strike home the question to repeat it thus. **FIRST**—*What has been your past life?* **SECONDLY**, *What is your present life?* **THIRDLY**, *What is to be your future life?*

The Editor in putting this solemn appeal, desires to awaken serious consideration, for in most cases it is not ignorance that makes men careless and irreligious, so much as inattention.

1883 is gone, gone, and gone forever!

Some of our actions during the past year gladden memory to recall, others awaken sad and solemn reflection. What is! What might have been!

Time was, time is, but already, 1884 is passing. *What is your life? What is your life to be?* **'NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION.'**

O seek the Lord, whose love draws nigh
In yearning pity, lest the door
Should shut and mock the awful cry—
"Too late, too late, for evermore!"

A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated throughout eternity. If it be marked with sins, the marks will be indelible. If it has been a useless life, it can never be improved. Such it will stand for ever and ever.

The fool counts on to-morrow; the wise man saith, to-day is the day of salvation, and now the accepted time of mercy and opportunity. *Each day, when it is once past, is gone forever.* What thou doest do quickly. Time shall sometime be no more. Who knows when or where the end? Many die every hour. Time and tide wait for no man's will or pleasure. Soon the tasks undone, can never be done; the *old year 1883* is gone, gone forever. Nothing but the perfection and blood of Jesus can atone for past imperfections. He holds the balances, and can redeem the past, which cannot be ransomed with corruptible things such as silver and gold, but can be pardoned and atoned for, BY HIS OWN PRECIOUS BLOOD.

Apart from eternal motives, we do well to be sober, not wasteful of life's golden moments, lest life's winter-time find us shelterless, and comfortless in the wide, wide world.

Let us now resolve and act. Our gracious master, knowing our frailty and what the danger, teaches us humbly to pray:

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," or, "the evil one."

"If aught should tempt my soul to stray
From heavenly wisdom's narrow way,
To fly the good I would pursue,
Or do the sin I would not do;
Still He who felt temptation's power
Shall guard me in that dangerous hour."

As stated elsewhere, in faith we gave orders to double our issue, and after making the contract sometimes unbelief has asked, "How about the increased expenditure?" So far whilst many have sent for specimen copies and promised to canvass, few have made returns.

Nevertheless we know the motive which started Buds and Blossoms and have faith in our God. Our large increase of advertising patronage evidences we are not reaching out in vain, and that our magazine is not only a *medium of good*, but a good medium for reaching others, and this encourages us.

The Regions Beyond, or, Mission Musings.

The Christian's *marching orders* are very plain and emphatic, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations." Matt. xxviii. 19.

"Go" does not mean "send." "Go" does not mean "pray." "Go" means "Go," simply and literally.

"Surely Thou hast some work for me to do!

O, open thou mine eyes

To see how Thou would'st choose to have it done,
And where it lies."

Let us not forget to pray for missions and missionaries. Faithful, earnest prayer for Missions is obedience to a supreme command. "Pray ye therefore" (Matt. ix. 38) is as imperative as "Go ye therefore" (Matt. 28. 19). It is but an enlargement of the petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come." It is offered in the name of Christ and in His Spirit. It is in sympathy with the labors and entreaties of the great apostles of the Gentiles, and will have all the earnestness, perseverance, and importunity belonging to that "effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man" which is commended in the word of God.

If you do not work and pray for missions, you deny God's universal love. You cannot believe that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. You deny its efficiency. You cannot believe that he was the Son of God, or has any claim upon your obedience who said: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel unto every creature." You deny his authority.

For it is as clear as noonday, that if you believed in God's loving wish to save men, and the power of the Gospel to save, and that it was God's Son, and not an