

said, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." The Judge declares him justified, for Another has taken his place, and as two cannot suffer a penalty for the same offence, the sentence of the court is, "There is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."

Be it known unto you, therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you remission of sins, and by Him every one that believeth is justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses; and we might add, by laws of human device more galling than was ever the law of Moses.

To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is to assent to the truth of what we have recorded of Him and of His work. But it is more than this. It is not the same as accepting a proposition of Euclid, or a clearly-drawn inference in Paley's "Evidences of Christianity." If it were so, every man of sound understanding would be a Christian. Belief is an act of the heart as well as an assent of the head, for "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." It is emphatically a trusting. Christ died for sinners. I am a sinner. He died for me. Then I shall cease making a vain attempt at saving myself. I shall commit and confide my soul, my hopes, my all, to Him.

One of the most devoted Sabbath-school teachers I have known was asked by a member of his class what was meant by "believing." Sickness had laid its hand upon the boy, and removed him from busy scenes of life and work. In his mother's cottage, his mind was led to an earnest consideration of the things he had heard and read. The teacher, who had made a regular study of his case, on paying his usual weekly visit and finding his scholar alone, said, "Robert, would you stand on that bench, with your back turned towards me?"

The lad stood on the bench.

"Could you let yourself fall back into my arms, which are very near you, and which will bear you up?" added the teacher.

The boy hesitated, and threw forward his hands, as if to balance himself.

"I am afraid you do not trust me. Am I not strong enough, and do I not love you?" continued the teacher.

Blushing at the thought of distrust towards one whom he loved, Robert fell back into the arms of him who was watching for his soul, and that day knew what it was to be "safe in the arms of Jesus."

I have read the solemn words of resurrection-hope over the grave of one who was brought to a saving view of the truth as it is in Jesus by an illustration suggested by the "Holy War." He felt himself shut up in a fortress. Sin and self "heaped heavier still the fetters, barred closer still the gates." Around were the hosts of a conquering Captain, who showed the besieged what had been done with him, and how precious was his soul in the sight of God. He pointed

to the cross, to let him see how far Heaven came to meet those who were enemies. He said to him, "Son, give Me thy heart and submit to Me." And a sight of the Saviour's love led to an unconditional surrender to Him. The enemy became a friend, the outlaw a citizen of the skies.

A mother had an only child. A neighbour-woman came into her house one day, and found her weeping as if her heart would break. On being able to control her voice, the mourner said, "There is my child, for whom I have given up all. I have spent fourteen years of my life with that child; I refused to allow her to go to an institution; I would not let the servants take care of her; my nights have been sleepless, my days have been full of sorrow; and after all this she does not know me from you or any other neighbour. If that child would only look up, recognise me once, and say, 'Mother, I thank you for all you have done!' But she does not know me, and that is breaking my heart."

Dear reader, does not this apply to many, very many? "God has nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Him." "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!" "All day long have I stretched out My hand towards a disobedient and gainsaying people." May all who read these lines have their faith elicited as by magnetic touch, and their love inflamed as by fire—when they think of the love, and the mercy, and the long-suffering shown towards rebellious man!

An earnest trust will show itself in loving service. A ransomed slave will kiss the feet of his liberator. The jailer, filled with joy, brought the prisoners into his house; as far as he could, he made amends for his former harshness; washed their stripes and bound up their wounds. In every possible way he proves the reality of his faith and the sincerity of his love towards Him whose servants had made known the way of salvation.

That night he was baptised, he and all his, straight-way; and I am sure that as long as he lived, whether a member of the Church in Philippi or a member of the Church elsewhere, by his walk and conversation, by his faith and by his life, he adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Here is the true order in which good works appear. They follow the faith as echo follows voice; and till the last the former shall continue to be the proof of the latter, and shall ever manifest themselves as the sign of our gratitude and the mark which the Master has placed upon His own.

On a gravestone overgrown with moss in a country burying-place, the following lines were with difficulty rendered legible. May they be exemplified in thy life and in mine—

"I do not work my soul to save—
That work my Lord hath done;
But I will work like any slave
For the love of God's dear Son."

From "The Christian Irishman."