

Our Young People

Topic for January 22: "A Student's Prayer."—Ps. 19: 1-14.

"Teach Me Thy Way."

The Student's Christ.

First and last, in the classroom and outside, I have discussed with hundreds of college students their troubles and fears, their ambitions and hopes, and the one thing I have wanted to say to all of them is this: Remember Christ at your study-table.

For Christ is at the study-table as at the communion table, at the book feast as really as at the Lord's Supper. And the student that studies with Christ will succeed, while the student that studies without Christ will not succeed, though he graduate at the head of his class.

Now there are four things that Christ at your study-table will help you not to do.

1. He will keep you from cheating, from using "ponies," "interliners," "keys," or even, to any unfair extent, the aid of your companions. He is the Truth, and you cannot study with the knowledge that he is by your side, and use any but upright and honorable methods. Your essays will be all yours, and not heaps of unacknowledged quotations; your examination papers will bear the examination of the recording angel; your recitations will be those of a man and not those of a parrot,—if you have studied with Christ.

2. He will keep you from getting discouraged. That is, you will count it your success to please him when you faithfully do your best, and so you will not be worried for fear of what men might call failure.

3. He will keep you from envy. Others may have bigger brains than you, and a larger accumulation of knowledge, but no one has more of Christ than you may have, or larger apartments in the Father's house, or a heartier "Well done!" from the Father's lips.

3. He will keep you from low ambitions. It is noble to be a great scholar, but it is infinitely grander to be a great Christian. It is well to know God's world, but that will perish, and it is the supreme end of knowledge to know God. It is a high honor to receive deservedly the title of doctor of philosophy, teacher of philosophy, but to be a sincere and loving scholar at the Master's feet is a more dazzling ambition that any that Caesar or Aristotle ever entertained.

And then—more briefly, because they flow from these—there are four things that Christ at your study-table will help you to do.

1. He will help you to understand. He will clear your brain and quicken your apprehension. He who made the brain is your partner. Many a difficult problem, in books as well as in life, has been cleared up for me and for other Christian students in answer to prayer.

2. He will help you to remember. The secret of memory is attention. If you stood before a machine with the inventor of it, could you forget his enthusiastic explanations? If you sat down to a textbook with the author of it, would not its pages flash new light upon your mind? And Christ, who made all things about which you study, is at your side by the study-table.

3. He will help you to enjoy it. What a zest it will give your astronomy to study it with Him who holds the suns in the hollow of his hand! And your mathematics, to follow their great lines with the One who stretches out the heavens with a span!

4. He will help you to use it. That is where many students fail; but the Christian is—must be—a man with a purpose, an overmastering purpose, that bends everything, studies, muscles, wealth, everything to itself.—Christian World.

For Daily Reading.

Monday, Jan. 16.—Value of an education. Prov. 2: 1-16; Isa. 50: 4.
Tuesday, Jan. 17.—An Egyptian education. Acts 7: 20-40.
Wednesday, Jan. 18.—A Chaldean education. Dan. 1: 1-7; 5: 10-17.
Thursday, Jan. 19.—A Jewish education. Acts 22: 1-15.
Friday, Jan. 20.—Jesus, taught of God. John 7: 14-18; 8: 25-30.
Saturday, Jan. 21.—Education and prayer. Jas. 1: 5-8.
Sunday, Jan. 22.—Topic. A student's prayer. Ps. 19: 1-14. (A meeting for the Day of Prayer for Colleges.)

The Father's Letter.

There was once a very wise foolish man, who received a letter. At once he began studying it in this way. He measured it accurately. He used a microscope to see of what fibres the paper was made. He analyzed the ink, and the mucilage on the flap. He gauged the average slant of the letters. While he was about this folly a friend came near and glanced at the letter.

"Why," said he, "this letter is from your father!"

"Is it?" asked the foolish wise man; "I hadn't got so far as that."

Ah, how many students read in creation everything but their Father's message.—A.R.W.

Education Under Difficulties.

Dr. Blaikie says that David Livingstone began to work in a factory at ten years of age. With part of his first wages he purchased Ruddiman's Rudiments of Latin, and pursued the study of that language for many years at an evening class which met between the hours of eight and ten. He studied at home until midnight, went to the factory at six in the morning, and worked until eight at night.

During his working hours, his plan was to place a book on a portion of the spinning jenny so that he could catch sentence after sentence as he paused at his work. The utmost interval he could have had for reading was less than a minute.

Livingstone regarded these years of toil as an important part of his education, and was willing "to begin life over again in the same lowly style and to pass through the same hardy training."

An English artisan, who has supported himself since he was thirteen years old, had also educated himself by means of free libraries and university extension lectures. He was so remarkable a student that he was several times mentioned in the university extension examiner's report. At twenty-three he entered Oxford University, and during three years' study there has become a distinguished student and will rank high when he comes to his degree.

What a Boy Can Do.

These are some things a Christian boy can do who wants to work for Jesus:

Be frank.
Be polite.
Be prompt.
Be obliging.
Obey his parents.
Keep himself tidy.
Refuse to do wrong.
Never use profanity.
Never learn to smoke.
Be useful about home.
Keep out of bad company.
Never laugh at a coarse joke.
Learn his lessons thoroughly.
Never make unnecessary noise.
Never be disrespectful to old age.
Be kind to his brothers and sisters.
Take the part of those who are ill-used.
Never make fun of another because he is poor.
Never play marbles for "keeps;" it is gambling.
Fail, if he cannot pass his examination honestly.

Never tell or listen to a story which he would not repeat to his mother.

Try to lead his companions to Jesus by speaking a little word for him, when he can.

Surely the opportunities are thick on every side for a Christian boy to do Christian work.