

"Safe From Temptation?"

BY REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN.

When you feel you are safest from the attack of Satan, you are most in danger of becoming a victim of his wiles. Show me the man who has had some spiritual experience—call it conversion or second blessing, or anything you please—and who, coming out of that experience, says: "Now I am safe. I have passed the region of temptation; I have gained the mastery"; and I will show you the man in supremest danger. It is the man who clings tenaciously, out of the agonized sense of his own weakness, who is strong; and not the man who stamps erect, and says temptation can have no power on him. Satan has no respect for any building, or convention, or religious frame of mind man has ever possessed. The pure soul of Jesus was met with temptation when the divine voice had been heard, and the divine approval declared.

Prayer.

BY REV. JOSEPH PARKER, D. D.

Grant us Thy peace, O Lord. "Great peace have they that love Thy law." The peace of God passeth understanding. Jesus Christ promised to give unto His church His peace, saying, "My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you." We would enter into His rest; we would know the joy of the Lord's own peace. He is our peace, who hath made both one by His cross, reconciling us thereby, and thereby destroying the enmity. Lord, grant us Thy peace. The Lord will bless His people with peace. Now may we enter into the rest of God. Thou hast set us in a wonderful world, full of tumult and sorrow and death. There is no rest in time; it is too short for rest, it is too mean for joy. But we aspire to the eternal. This desire is kindled in us by God the Holy Ghost. Thou hast set eternity in our hearts. Thou hast not made us for time. We will rest in heaven.

Serving.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds, both great and small,
Are close-knit strands of one unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.
The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells;
The book of life the shining record tells.

Thy love shall chant its own beautitudes
After its own life working. A child's kiss
Set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad.
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong.
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The sermon that is after the soul is, like the Master, "filled with compassion." It will have in it what was in Christ's eyes when he looked on Peter, with the curses and denials scarce off that poor disciple's lips. It will have in it what was in Christ's voice when he stood weeping over Jerusalem, and said, "How oft would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathered her brood under her wings, and ye would not." The severest rebuke will get its chief severity from this deep undertone of divine compassion. And whether it be warning or entreaty, command or invitation, the terrors of the law or the forgiveness of the Gospel, the paths of a suffering and beseeching: no pursuing love will bathe it all, and make it clear that if the sermon does not bring the prodigal home, it will be because he preferred to trample on his Father's heart and murder mercy.

Our Young People**Caleb: Choosing a Hard Thing.**

Topic for Jan. 19: Josh. 14: 6-14.

Our Leader Speaks

The story of Caleb is one of the most attractive and stirring of all the Bible stories, because it tells about the heroism of an old man. But it would lose most of its force if it did not also apply to young men and boys, to young women and girls. Indeed, there is nothing which Caleb did that we may not do quite as well.

Why are not all of us Calebs?

Partly, because we do not keep our eyes open for Hebrons to conquer. Some people have valley eyes, that never look up to the mountains. Their ideal for life is to get along easily. An enemy may lurk behind every tree, but they keep in the middle of the road and avoid trouble. Sin is all around us. Satan and his hosts are pressing hard. Everywhere there are Hebrons in the hands of our foes. There is the Hebron of the saloon. There is the Hebron of infidelity. There are the Hebrons of impurity, and misrule, and gambling, and dishonesty, and selfishness. We can shut our eyes to them, and choose a tent on the plain, or we can open our eyes to them and be Calebs.

But of course, too, we cannot be Calebs just with our eyes. We need a stout heart as well, and strong hands. Many people satisfy themselves with pointing out what needs to be done to bring in the kingdom of God; but no mountain can be scaled by looking at it and taking kodak views of it. So the question with each of us at this opening of the New Year is this: "What hard thing will I attempt for the Master?"

That is the name of our society—not Speculate, not Desire, not Boast, but Endeavor. The Hebron before the lookout committee may be to win for Christ and for active membership some careless young man. The Hebron before our officers may be to render this society an honor to the proud name it bears. The Hebron before you personally may be to overcome some besetting sin. Whatever our Hebrons may be, let us gain courage from Caleb. Let us open our eyes to them. Let us embolden our hearts toward them. Let us arm ourselves for the conquest, and make them our very own.

Daily Readings.

Mon., Jan. 13	—Esther's choice.	Esth. 4: 1-16.
Tues., "	14.—Nehemiah's choice.	Neh. 1: 1-11
Wed., "	15.—Jonah's choice.	Jonah 1: 1-17
Thurs., "	16.—Christ's choice.	Luke 22: 39-46
Fri., "	17.—Stephen's choice.	Acts 6: 9-15
Sat., "	18.—Paul's choice.	Acts 20: 17-27
Sun., "	19.—Topic. Caleb: Choosing a hard thing.	Josh. 14: 6-14

As a man thou hast nothing to commend thee to thyself, but that only by which thou art a man, that is by what thou choosest and refusest.—Taylor.

Suggestions.

Thousands of men go up into the fierce Klondike region and endure terrible hardships there, but it is for selfish ends, in the main—in order that they may become rich. Caleb endured hardships for another reason: he was seeking the good of his people. In that, too, he is an example for us all.

Why have we given up our childhood sports? Because they are not hard enough. As we grow from boyhood and girlhood, we keep up our interest in sports by making them harder and harder. Now why is it that, in our Christian life, we so often try to do the opposite thing, attempting to make it easier and easier?

Bismarck, the "Iron Chancellor" of Germany, probably had to overcome more difficulties than any other modern statesman. At one time he uttered these stirring words: "If you trust in God and yourself, you can surmount every obstacle. Do not yield to restless anxiety. One must not always be asking what may happen to one's self in life, but one must advance fearlessly and bravely." That is the way to conquer our Hebrons.

Spurgeon used to say that he got much encouragement to do hard things from a road he once saw in the Tyrol. There was a great cliff overhanging a lake, and it would seem impossible to put a road there, but a daring engineer blasted a groove along the side of the cliff and made a beautiful road, with the mountain on one side and arching over it like a roof. It is a tunnel with one side omitted. When a man, if he is such a man as Caleb, wants to go somewhere, he will find a way, or make one.—C. E. World.

It takes only one volcano anywhere in the earth to show that the heart of the earth is fire, and that some day it may burst through the thickest crust. . . . This is the tragedy of our single sins. . . . Down the crack which some one transgression makes in the fair face of a smooth and blooming life, we can see waiting for God's judgment-word the fire before which that life shall be at last consumed with fervent heat.—Phillips Brooks.

Presbyterian Standard: We regret very much our error with regard to the Twentieth Century Movement in the Canadian Presbyterian Church, which is about the size of the Southern Presbyterian. We said that they had about raised the million dollars which they proposed to raise. They have not. They have made it a million and a half.

Do not lose the present in vain perplexities about the future.—Sir T. Martin.

No man has a right to do as he pleases, except when he pleases to do right.—Simmons.

The awful loneliness of life—a life full of acquaintances as a cake is full of currants, no two ever touching each other.