

We shall receive the crown of righteousness only if we finish our course and keep the faith. *If the Lord be with me*, v. 12. But there is also God's part in the matter. Caleb did not say to Joshua, "Because I am as strong now as at forty, I can drive them out" or "if thou wilt be with me, I can drive them out." No, no, we can do nothing in our own strength but may humbly say with Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," Phil. 4 : 13.

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

It is best that the Lord choose our inheritance for us. v. 5.

The prayer has power that grips God's promises. v. 6.

We should always have the courage of our convictions. v. 7.

Double honor is due to those who follow God when others desert Him. v. 8.

Godliness begets manliness, v. 8.

Our glory and our boast should be the testimony of a good conscience. v. 8.

God often delays but never deserts. v. 10.

Godliness is profitable unto all things (1 Tim. 4 : 8). v. 11.

Best things cost. v. 12.

The Christian needs not to know failure. v. 12.

"God has His best things for the few
That dare to stand the test ;
God has His second choice for those
Who will not have His best."

Caleb is one of those men whom we meet with seldom in Bible history, but whenever we do meet them we are the better for the meeting. Bright and brave, strong, modest and cheerful, there is honesty in his face, courage and decision in the very pose of his body, and the calm confidence of faith in his very look and attitude.—Blaikie.

"The chief reward of Caleb did not consist in his getting possession, just before he died, of a tract of rough land, but in the consciousness of integrity, the delight of achievement, the esteem of his comrades, the approval of God."

The whole history of God's dealings with

Because that he wholly followed the Lord, v. 14. God may delay, as we think, in keeping His promises, but He will certainly do what He has said. God cannot lie. But His promises are all conditional upon our obedience. Unless we "wholly follow the Lord" we cannot expect or claim the fulfillment of God's promises to us. We must keep our part of the covenant, before God can keep His. His omnipotence is strangely bound up with our willingness.

man shows that to fully follow the Lord pays a better per cent. than to serve any other master. The reward frequently comes mainly at the end, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," Rev. 2 : 10 ; "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness . . . and not to me only but to all them also that love his appearing," 2 Tim. 4 : 8.—Coleman.

There are those who sigh for holiness and beauty of character, but they are not willing to pay the price. They sing "More holiness give me" and dream of some lofty spiritual attainment, some transfiguration, but they are not willing to endure the toils, fight the battle and make the self-sacrifice necessary to win these celestial heights. They want a larger spiritual inheritance, but they have no thought of taking it in primeval forests which their own hands must cut down.—Miller.

The youthful freshness with which Caleb comes forward has in it something uncommonly cheering, and shows how a pious walk joined with an efficient accomplishment of the business of life keeps a man even physically sound and vigorous up to an advanced age.—Lange.

Swift runs and short cuts, so characteristic of our modern life, are great perils. We want everything in a hurry, but most good things are shy with strangers. Children want pieces on the piano before scales or training of that weak third finger. The poet says, "Wait a while." Life cries, "Work a long while." The unerring light of love and joy's security, of which Wordsworth writes, belong to the Ode to Duty. You