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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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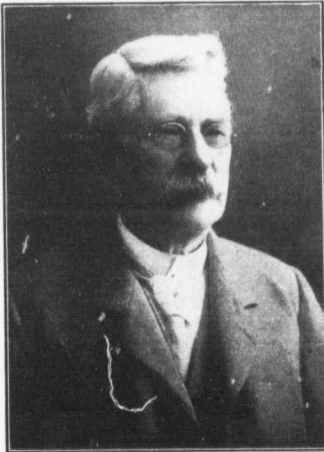
LIFE is to a large extent what we make it. At our choice, it may be sordid or unselfish, grovelling or elevated, sorrowful or joyous, worldly or Christian.

Much of our earth-life lies in shadow by varied affliction; but much more so, by sin. Life-trials are many, but they are not accidental. They are part of God's great educational forces for our instruction in righteousness, and

for the development of a true manhood. If we think of them repiningly, absorbingly, all will seem to us dark, hard, painful, oppressive. How different our estimate when we can heartily say: "Thy will be done, teach me Thy way, O Lord." Then disease, disappointment, difficulty, soul-sorrow,—all seem so many steps leading up to the throne of God. Exhaustion and pain may be felt while climbing a way so steep, but every trial, every pain, will be sweetened by the proofs we shall gather as we go, that true life is always and ever, an ascension.

Large help in this uplifting pathway will be found if we weigh well the teachings of New Testament writers, regarding the Christian believer and the Christian life. They represent the Christian as a highly privileged person; that there is a sacredness in his life, that however poor his surroundings, or painful his circumstances, or whatever worldly disadvantages his religion may produce, he is more than compensated for them by his relation to God and the blessings that come from it. A very copious vocabulary is used in describing what that relation and its consequences are. We are told that he is a child and heir of God; the elect of God, most precious to Him, that upon him God lavishes His exhaustless wealth of love, that he is the Lord's chosen witness, who in clear ringing tones tells to others the story of re-

deeming, saving mercy, and by his character and life demonstrates the power of that mercy, the contrast between his present and his past being so visible and complete. They tell us that this man, this witness, is a "habitation of God through the Spirit," that, therefore, his is a God-filled life, and so he has constant security, visible sanctity, and satisfying joy.



REV. DR. PASCOE

Think of the grand life those writers describe. In its sinlessness, it is like the life of heaven or better,—a beautiful copy of the earthly life of Jesus that all may read and understand to their great and abiding profit. They speak, too, of its *unselfishness*: always it lives for the honor of God and the good of men.

Of course, there is given this view of it, too, that it is not a life of ease; but it is a strenuous life. Its work is done in much weakness often, and in the shadowed places in the face of great opposition. It is a conflict. There are wrestlings against "principalities, and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places." But it is a sturdy life and a lofty, that will stoop to no meanness while reaching out for the realization of its aims. The world has hated it, but benign in spirit, it is filled with gentle deeds.

It is not a something which is possible only in heaven. No! the writers themselves lived it.

Multitudes have lived it, They knew, and so gave witness.

Are we living it? We said we would. Have we kept our vows? If we are, we know it, and others know it too. They cannot help knowing, for they cannot fail to see the beauty of that life, nor to feel the power of its influence for good whenever they come into touch with it, and you know how many lives touch our own. Young people,—*Live the Christian life!*