

EYES FRONT! EYES FRONT!

BY REV. G. H. SPURGEON.

Let these eyes look right on, and let these eyes look straight before them. These words occur in a passage where the wise man exhorts us to take care of all parts of our nature, which he indicates by members of the body.

If a man is to let his eyes look right on, and his eyes straight before him, then he is to have a way, and that way is to be straight, and in that straight way he is to persevere. You cannot see to the end of a crooked way.

Every wise man will conclude that the best way for a man is the way which God has made for him. He that made us knows what He made us for, and He knows by that means we may best arrive at that end.

If Christ be your way, you will begin first to seek to have Christ. How shall I have Him? says one. That thou desire Him? Will thou accept Him? He is there. The man who accepts Christ freely gives Him to all who freely accept Him.

When you have Christ, the next business of your life must be to know Christ. Seek to know more of Him, to know Him better, to know Him more practically, to know Him more assuredly.

Let us attend to, to remember, if Christ be your way, you have further to seek to be like Him, not only to do as He did, but to be as He was, for as He was, so are we in this world.

And we must begin to bear that heavenly image even now. Now, supposing that we have attended to all this, if Christ is our way, and our model, there is something more, namely, that we seek to glorify Christ and labor to win others to Him.

Following the text again, only working it a little differently, the second exhortation is, set your eyes on Him as your way. First, that you may know the way of life, let your eyes be fixed on Him.

Some men's eyes do not look right on, and their eyes do not look straight before them, for they look back upon that part of the road which they have traversed, and grow content with that which they have already attained.

III. I have only to lay emphasis on one more matter. Let your eyes distinctly and directly look to Christ alone. I have gone over this before, but I need to hammer at it again, in order to cleanse the life, and to look to Christ Jesus alone.

Again, look not to any secondary aims. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. In seeking Christ, make no bargain with gain or reputation; be content to lose all gold and all honor if you may but win Christ.

And lastly, take care that you continue gazing upon Christ, and have faith in Him. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Go on hearing the Word of God till faith comes thereby.

Unconditional surrender to Christ. Whatever He saith to you, do it. This commandment of the mother, and the servants at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, is a condensed motto for the Christian life.

The Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. The Saviour most lovingly says, "Come unto me—learn of me." Faith is the soul's surrender to Jesus.

"What do you mean by giving up?" inquired his pastor. The man answered: "I mean consenting to let God do with me as he pleases, and trusting him to do everything for me through Jesus Christ."

Now, there was a loud and simple explanation of the only way to avoid a sinner can get over the fence that bars up his pathway to heaven.

What next? Jesus says to the living soul, "Follow me." The road of obedience may be a rough, or a steep, or a trying road. Its hills of difficulties may be high, its valleys of self-humiliation may be deep.

Just here lies the secret of the genuine Christian life. To know no will but that of Christ; to rest no arm but his; to have every eye directed to him, which he orders out to inquire each hour of the day.

And now let me say to every reader of this article, whatever Christ saith to you, do it. Do it promptly, for a delayed act is never but half an act.

Don't let the selfishness of every-day life shut out God's beautiful sunshine. Be yielding to the will of God, and become gloomy and despondent, or worse still, gross and irritable.

God gave the sunlight, and there need be no desolate, darkened human spirit. All that He gives brings lasting peace and blessing to humanity, and the brightest and most precious gift of mercy that is ever given to man.

No wonder that men die in their despair and loneliness while refusing to accept the tender Christ-love. We wonder that all do not perish that are wandering away from Him, who is the light and life of the world.

There is a beautiful Oriental custom of which I have read that tells the story of Christ's atonement on the Cross very perfectly. When a debt had to be settled, either by full payment or forgiveness, it was the usage for the creditor to take the cancelled bond and nail it over the door of him who owed it.

The Influence of a Kind Act.

BY WILLIE HELM.

"What a dreadful day!" "I'm fairly blue to pieces."

"I'm thankful I caught this car, if we did have to run for it," and the three rosy, breathless girls sank into the seat as the car moved on.

After they had arranged their hair and ribbons and dress, with which the boisterous wind had taken most daring liberties, they commenced to talk again.

The car gradually filled up, and although their tongues were so busy, they were free to scan every new-comer. The handsomely-dressed ladies were inspected with critical eyes; then the three heads were drawn close together, and the three voices were mingled in loudly whispered comments.

There's Gertrude Eastman," said Maud Haven, one of the trio. "How awfully proud and stuck-up she is!"

"What a lovely dress she has!" said Maud. "Oh, dear, I wish I could afford to have such nice clothes, and have them made so beautifully."

All this subject of their remarks sat quietly looking out of the window, unconscious of the interest she was creating in the minds of the three girls in the rear of the car.

"Thank you, my dear," replied the old lady, looking up into Gertrude's fresh young face as she sat next her at the window.

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"Well, girls," she said, looking from one to the other, "she's a thorough lady, anyhow."

"I think she is perfectly lovely," said May Travis, enthusiastically. "I'll never call her from now again."

"She just did it to show off," said Clara Denton spitefully, who could not forget the look in the flashing eyes as they rested for a moment on her.

There was silence again for a moment, when Maud spoke in the same manner as before, and this time there was just a slight quiver in her voice.

"Girls," she said, "I'll tell you what I think. I believe it wasn't so much because Gertrude Eastman is a born lady that she did that, as because she is trying to be a Christian."

Rev. J. G. Gibson, of Ogletown county, who is in the city to-day, is one of the ablest ministers of the Baptist denomination in the State, and knows how to run a church on a common sense basis.

At one time in his life he was a lawyer and a farmer, and was successful at both. He was called to the pastorate of a church.

Now, the usage of the church was not to agree to give the minister any fixed salary, but in fact he could not get his family expenses paid to be met, and he must know how he was to meet them.

"Yes," Dr. Gibson replied, "you are the man. I will move out Thursday, good-bye. It is all right. And you doctor attend to your patients."

"Hold on," said the brother, "you have forgotten a very important matter. You have not told me what my salary would be."

"Turning back, Dr. Gibson answered: 'I can't tell now what I will be able to pay you. I don't know what my expenses will be.'"

"Hold on," ejaculated the brother, "do you think I am such a fool as to run a farm on that basis?"

"No, sir," said Dr. Gibson, "but I understand you thought I could run a church on such a schedule."

Are you sad, despondent, gloomy? Are you sore distressed? Listen to the welcome bidding— "Give it up."

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