

**Funeral Service.****The Close of Summer.**

*The summer is ended.*—Jer. viii : 20.

**I. A fact in nature.**

Procession of the seasons never comes to a halt. Moving panorama of nature's miracles shifts its scenes. Summer's work and its fruits past.

(a) The summer has its own beauty, joy and use—never fails. Always essentially the same. Yet the same summer never returns.

(b) A time of glowing sun and growing crops. The spring time and the autumn cannot do summer's work.

II. In human life. Its summer has closed with some special opportunities, brightest, most genial influences for religious growth and usefulness. Autumn at hand. Should show ripened fruits. If you have sown in tears during the summer, you may be sure of reaping with joy in the autumn. Is harvest ready or only withering leaves? The days grow briefer.

**The Life Most Worth Living.**

*I am . . . the Life.*—John xiv : 6.

HUMAN lives differ greatly in value. There is one that is best. Its model we shall seek in vain for till we stand before the man Christ Jesus. He is the *Son of Man*; not man in broken fragments, but "man at his climax."

In Him we see :

- (a) Life's true aim realized.
- (b) Its true use displayed.
- (c) Its true joy experienced, and
- (d) Its perfection attained.

Keeping His life-history in view, we note :

1. The life most worth the living must be dedicated to God and righteousness from the first.

2. It must be spent unselfishly for others' good rather than our own aggrandizement.

3. It must be fed and cultured by influences from the upper world.

J. S. K.

**For Communion Service.****The Saviour's Steadfastness to His Sacrificial Purpose.**

*He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.*—Luke ix : 51.

THAT meant death : it meant entrance into the fiery jaws of hell, to fight our battle with infernal spirits and win our victory forever. Observe :

I. He knew his mission was to die—to die in ignominy and agony incomparable—while yet a young man, with everything to live for. He was not weary of life, for it had been one of active benevolence. But he set his face toward the cross, because it was the natural close of a career of self-sacrifice, the goal he had set before him, the best, the only way to secure our salvation.

His love nourished the purpose, and also his obedience. What a mercy to us ! What if he had wavered ?

II. His work was complete—"It is finished," etc. The letter was written. It was time to sign and seal it. We have been reading it ever since.

III. In one way we are called to meet hours of trial with such steadfastness of purpose. Our Calvary before us a gateway to resurrection to a higher life for others.

Tempting voices would hold us back, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Must dare to go forward and take what comes of it. Heroic conduct is the simplest, a straightforward course the easiest if the heart is true and the will resolute. Christ looked at the joy beyond—so we.

J. S. K.