

## The Christian Helper.

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Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy." 11. Cor. 1: 24.

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### A WORD IN SEASON.

Every year ought to begin with good resolution and to end with serious examination; and the retrospect of the past should suggest purposes for the future. If no Christian man can either live or die to himself, it follows that, living or dying, he must be the Lord's; and if the Lord's then he must be supremely anxious, while he lives, to know what is the will of the Lord concerning him. He must strive to ascertain what means and opportunities are committed to him for the accomplishment of any part of that will. And then he must ask himself, in the presence of Him who died for him, have I neglected the proper use of any talent entrusted to me? have I done *all* I could for the Master's glory? An investigation of this close and faithful character cannot fail to discern many a neglected path of duty, and to suggest new walks of usefulness in the Christian life.

Is the reader a head of a family? Let him consider whether he has done all in his power to promote the spiritual well-being of those committed to his care. Can nothing more be accomplished in the way of instruction, of earnest persuasion, of holy example, of wise government? Let him ask if he has been *uniformly careful* of the eternal interests of those dependent upon him for support and counsel.

Is the reader a member of a Christian Church? How many church-members stand "all the day idle," as if the Master had given them no work to do! They look to the fellowship of the church as a medium of receiving good; but they forget that their membership imposes upon them the solemn obligation of seeking the good of the Church. Let every church member ask himself, have I been a helper of my pastor in his arduous work? have I contributed my measure of influence to the prosperity of the cause? has my spirit been that of love, while my efforts have been those of an active and devoted member of "the mystical body of Christ?" Is

the church the better or the worse by reason of my accession to it? What does conscience testify? What are the reasonable conclusions of my pastor and brethren respecting me?

Is the reader engaged on any of those works of usefulness which so pre-eminently characterize the present age? Let him ask, in what manner he has acquired himself in the performance of the duties which he voluntarily undertook? Has he been earnest and untiring in his endeavours? or have they been cold and languid, and such as could not be expected to produce an effect?

*Sunday School teacher!* Have you prayerfully sought an avenue to the hearts of your interesting charge? Has your spirit been that of Jesus as you have looked week by week upon the members of your class? Have you sought out acceptable words—words of truth and tenderness? And have you persevered in your work, waiting and looking for the reward which God shall give you in his own good time? Is there not much in a review of the past both to reprove and to stimulate? Let the year eighteen hundred and seventy-nine be entered upon in a new spirit. Let past failures and negligences awaken deep repentance; and lead to the adoption of a more holy and devoted course. Let the Spirit of all grace be sought by fervent and reiterated prayer. Thus may all who name the name of Jesus hope to be more useful and happy in the future than they have been in the past.

To some of our readers,—a few only we would hope,—another year is not only passed, but lost. All the years they have spent have been the years of a *vain* life. The one that is now closing has added its guilt to all the preceding. This ought to be an awakening consideration. What, ever your age may be, you belong not to the house-hold of faith; you are not in the family of God. You are not in his house as children, nor in his vineyard as labourers. As yet you have done nothing for God; nor are you prepared to meet Him as your Almighty Friend or Foe. Will you dare to venture upon another year, without once pondering the path of your feet, and asking whither this rapid march of time is carrying you? "It is high time to awake out of sleep."

### PLAIN WORDS FOR WORKERS.

"What is true is not new." There is nothing new in the following paragraphs. Our only aim is to stir up the pure minds of Sabbath School Teachers by way of remembrance, on two points.

1. Be faithful. God says "He that hath my word let him speak my word faithfully." Never utter, if you can possibly avoid it, a doubtful sentiment in the hearing of your class. Give them the sincere milk of the word. Learn to speak with clearness and power on the evil and danger of sin. Explain, with the utmost simplicity, the way of salvation by the death of Christ. Urge the necessity of a new heart and a right spirit by all the marks of depravity which evince themselves in the young. Let all the theology you teach be based on Scripture, so that whatever "helps" you call to your aid they may be employed for one end—that of unfolding the truth of God. But strive especially to attain those clear and more impressive views of divine truth upon the faithful and earnest presentation of which your success must mainly depend. Take pains with your preparations; take pains in your class. Be sure you have something vitally important to communicate whatever may be the subject of the lesson; and study to convey your ideas in the clearest and simplest terms.

2. Be direct. The best things may be uttered in the presence of children without the slightest effect; and just for this reason that they are spoken in their presence, *rather than immediately addressed to them.* You will be sure to have the attention of your class, if each member of it feels that you are speaking to him. Remember that every scholar has powers of attention—be sure that you engage them; he has perceptions, be sure that your modes of presenting truth are adapted to them; he has feelings—do not rest satisfied till you have quickened them into action; he has a conscience to discern between good and evil—endeavour earnestly to arouse its latent energies, for without this there can be no repentance for sin. Make a study of your whole work; make a study of the best modes of accomplishing it; make a study of each scholar in your class, for each will require some peculiarity of treatment different from all the rest. Determine, by God's help, and