

The Rich Man and Lazarus.

Luke 16 : 19-31.

THERE were two men who lived in the same city. One was very rich, the other was very poor. It is no crime to be rich ; neither does being poor make a man good.

The rich man was proud and unfeeling—the poor man was diseased and neglected, but knew God and served Him ; the rich man did not.

The one in his palace, perhaps, thought, "Nobody so great as I ;" and may be the other, lying by the palace gate, suffering and often sad, thought—"There are many worse off than I."

The rich man lived for himself only : the poor man was without food or home, helpless and, unpitied, except by the dogs that licked his sores.

Death came to both, and both were buried, but with a different kind of funeral. Jesus says, the rich man was banished from the heavenly mansion, while the poor man was welcomed into the presence of God and all the blessed ones in heaven.

The rich man was not banished because he was rich. But it was because his heart was not right in the sight of God. The poor man was taken from misery here to happiness and peace, not because he was poor, but because he loved God and served Him. If, therefore, you desire to enter heaven, you must be believers on the Lord Jesus Christ.

[FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.]

The Way to Heaven.

MRS. H. E. BROWN.

THE Apostle Paul says, in Romans 3 : 12, "They are all gone *out of the way*." What does he mean? Who have gone out of the way? What way is it? And how have they gone out of it? Let me try to tell you.

There is only one way by which man alone, that is, by his own efforts can get to heaven ; and this is the way of *obedience*. God has made a holy and good law for us, and has said, "Obey this, and you shall live ;" but, "the soul that sinneth it shall die." If we keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, the Bible tells us, we are guilty of all ; one sin would throw us "out of the way" so that we could not reach the home of God. So straight and narrow is the way ! so strict is God !

No wonder, then, that Paul said, "They are *all* gone out of the way," for there was not a person living who had not at some time disobeyed the commands of God. There never has lived a person, except the Lord Jesus Christ, who has not committed sin. There lies the road to heaven, straight as an arrow, but as God has looked down from heaven upon the children of men, He has seen no one walking in it. All had gone "out of the way," which means that all are sinners. All—that means you and me and everybody.

Now, if I were to ask you, "My dear child, where do you expect to go when you die?" I think you would answer, "Why, to heaven, of course." And yet there is not one of you but has gone out of the way that leads to heaven. What are you going to do about it?

As I told you before, only one has ever trodden that way of perfect obedience ; and that one was the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Son of man. Now, Paul says in another place that we shall be safe if we are "*found in Him*." And Jesus Himself said, "I am the way."

Now, what does it mean to be "in Christ"? It means that you must go to Jesus, just as you are, sorry that you have "gone out of the way," and ask Him to take you up, and carry you with Him, or "in Him," to heaven. Do not be afraid. God will not frown upon you when He sees you coming up to the pearly gates with Jesus, "in Him," as Paul says. You will be "accepted in the Beloved." God will smile on His dear Son with sweetest love for every little lamb thus brought into the heavenly fold ; and He will smile with sweetest love on every little lamb who is willing to go to Jesus, to be lifted up out of the ways of sin, and carried in His arms to heaven.

And now, will you continue "out of the way"? Turn right about, and flee for safety to Jesus. He says, "Come." He will hold your hand if you will let Him, that you may never slip back and get again out of the way. Blessed Saviour ! Dear Jesus !

A Good Conscience.

CONSCIENCE is the little voice which God has put into each one of us. When we do wrong, it speaks to us and makes us ashamed and sorry.

Paul could be brave, because he always minded this voice of God. If we want to be brave like Paul, we must keep a good conscience, as he did. We can only do this by minding God.



LAZARUS AT THE RICH MAN'S GATE.