

Christ gives to the daily round of duty a different face from that which it presents apart from Him. In the dry, hard soil of wearisome drudgery there rises a fountain of joy when we realize that the task assigned to us, be it never so commonplace and trivial in the eyes of others, is part of His plan for us, and will, if it is faithfully done, receive, as surely as the achievements that seem so much greater, the smile of His approval and the praise that He never stints or grudges.

The outlook into the future is changed for those whose eyes have been opened by the great Revealer. No longer is the grave an impenetrable barrier shutting out from view the region that lies beyond. That barrier the Christian hope, sure and steadfast, overleaps, and looks forward with glad anticipation to an entrance into the land which is the true home of the soul.

Christ is the great Transformer. He makes the dullest of occupations radiant with a heavenly brightness. The future is illumined with His promise and His presence.

## WHY AM I A PROTESTANT?

*By Rev. John Neil, D.D.*

I am a Protestant for the following reasons:

First, Protestantism has restored the Bible to its proper place as the only infallible rule of faith and conduct. The Church of Rome claims for tradition and the decrees of councils and popes the same authority as the Old and New Testaments. This we deny. Luther, in all his controversies with Rome, made his appeal to Holy Scripture. "On this rock I stand", was his triumphant challenge. The Protestant church has ever held that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and contains all that is necessary for salvation.

Second, Protestantism declares that the Bible should be in the hands of all. Rome says that the common people cannot understand it: it is only those who have been specially trained and ordained, and to whom special grace has been given, who can interpret it; hence it was taken from the people. Protestantism has restored it, and declares that we are not to be satisfied until all the people of all the nations are enabled to read it in their own tongue.

Third, Protestantism declares Jesus Christ to be the only Mediator between God and man. Rome, by her worship of the Virgin Mary, saints and angels, has obscured the relationship which exists between Jesus Christ and the human soul.

Fourth, Protestantism declares faith to be the only means through which salvation

reaches the human soul. Rome unites faith and works as the ground of salvation.

Fifth, Protestantism gives the church its proper place. Rome declares it to be the medium through which we approach Christ, and that there is no salvation apart from it. Protestantism denies this. It declares the church to be divine. It is the pillar and ground of the truth: it was formed to perpetuate and disseminate the gospel of Christ, to be a help to believers, and those who do not enter the church suffer loss; but it does not stand between the soul and God. Faith is the only medium through which we enter into union with Him. No church, no creed, no council, no priest can come between the individual conscience and God.

Sixth, Protestantism restores the sacraments to the position they occupy in the New Testament. Rome gives to them a magic power. Baptism is with her the entrance to the Christian life. Without it there is no salvation: the moment the child is baptized, that moment the divine life enters the soul. We deny this. Baptism is a means of grace, it is the sign and pledge of our union with Christ. If performed in faith, it brings blessing. But it does not mean regeneration, nor is it necessary to salvation. It has no magic power apart from faith; it is a mere empty form. The same holds with regard to the Lord's Supper. Rome declares that the bread and wine,