

## Be ye Separate.

THE natural result of separation is opposition. It is impossible for the Christian who comes out and is separate from the world to still obtain its friendship or its applause.

The world admires the man whose religion is a "compromise," but it hates and despises the man whose religion is a separate form from all forms of ungodliness.

The faithful believer, therefore, must expect *opposition*. He must expect to be *evil spoken of*; he must expect to be told he is "carrying his religion too far; he is "becoming *fanatical*," "unsociable," "uncharitable."

He must expect all this, but let neither fear nor favor cause him in the least to yield or be willing to "compromise." Let him fearlessly take his stand by the side of the Apostle Paul and exclaim, "None of these things move me (Acts 20: 24): for all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3: 12).

## Working and Rusting.

TWO ploughshares were once made by the same blacksmith, in the same smithy, from the same kind of iron, and they were bought by the same farmer. He took them home; one he took into instant employment, but he left the other unemployed for twelve months in a barn, till the poor thing got covered with rust: at last the farmer had occasion for another ploughshare, so he drew it forth from its laziness and obscurity, and sent it into the field, where it met its old fellow-ploughshare. "Why," said the lazy one, "what has kept you so bright? I declare I am quite ashamed to be seen." "Ah!" said the bright ploughshare, "it is labour and exercise that has kept me bright. Your rest and idleness has been injurious to you; but when you have been driven a few times through the earth, you will lose your rust and become beautiful and bright too."—*Blind Amos*.

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## Jesus the Physician.

"Jesus said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Matt. 9: 12.

JESUS is the only physician that can heal a sick soul. There is no balm but His blood; no healing but by His Spirit. Jesus as a physician, is proclaimed unto the world, that sinners of every class, clime, and color, may come to Him and be healed. But He is, in an especial sense, our *family physician*. He is engaged to attend to the whole household. For the children may apply to Him at all times, and for all they need. It is not necessary to wait until seized with a fever or paralysis, or some

dangerous disorder, but we may go to Him with all our headaches and heartaches, with all our cuts and bruises. He always receives us kindly, attends to us promptly, and prescribes for us wisely. We never ought to attempt to doctor ourselves, but always, in all things, and for all we want, go to Jesus. He never amputates, but heals without. He never lost a patient, nor never will. He never pronounced an applicant's case desperate, or said to one that made application to him, "I can do nothing for you." He never talks of letting nature work its own cure, but with incomparable skill he takes every case in hand, restores every patient to perfect health, and does all gratis. CHRIST ALONE is qualified to be our physician: CHRIST ALONE has healed every saint in glory. Let us then apply to him when we are indisposed. Let us go to him with our slight cases as well as our serious attacks. Let us take our diseased hearts to him, he will heal them, and restore them to perfect health. He can cure the deadness, the coldness, the giddiness, and the nervousness of the soul; let us not then fancy that there is no help or healing for us, for there is.

"Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth."—*Jeremiah x. xiii. 6*.

## Looking.

A CHRISTIAN looks *backward*, and gazes on the cross with all its wonders of grace. He looks *downward* and realizes the hell from which he has been plucked by the power and love of God. He looks *round*, and surveys that world from which he has been taken, with all its ungodliness and worldly lusts. He looks *upward*, and sees Jesus sitting at the right hand of God, loving and pleading. He looks *forward*, and sees the promised glory: he sees the day of his "Lord's appearing."

## No "Till" in Eternity.

O MOTHER," said one, "I do not know how to think of eternity, for there is no 'till' in eternity—*till* next year—*till* to-morrow—*till* New Year's Day."

Yes, there are measures for time; we know none to measure eternity. It is enough for us to know that heaven and hell are there. One of these will be our final home. How can we reach the one? how escape the other?

Jesus says,

"EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH."

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE; NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER BUT BY ME."

If you reach heaven, there will be no fear of a "till" to disquiet your perfect peace; if you are among the lost, there will be no hope of "till" to end your sorrow. Oh, my reader, do not delay to choose the better part *till* it be forever too late.