

## THE GREATER PREPARATION.

(By C. H. Wetherbe.)

It is a very singular fact that a large number of people will make a series of strong efforts and numerous sacrifices in order to thoroughly prepare themselves for an entrance upon some professional course, and yet they give no serious thought to preparing themselves for the great eternity which stretches out before them.

A multitude of young people are now preparing themselves for a course in college, and in the latter institution they expect to be fully fitted for a career of eminence as teachers, or doctors, or lawyers, or scientists, or literary writers. Year after year they apply themselves with ardor and persistence to the work of best preparation for their chosen calling; and all this is very commendable. But such a preparation is of only small account, as compared with a right preparation to meet God in final judgment, and for an existence in the eternal world.

How very unreasonable it is for any one to make great preparation for secular business, and temporal advantage and honors, and all the while utterly neglect to prepare one's self for the heavenly life and for an endless existence with the Lord of all!

There certainly could be no greater folly. And this folly is the more apparent when we think of the fact that a preparation for the heavenly life does not at all interfere with one's duty preparing himself for such secular or temporal pursuits as are honorable and useful. To be a genuine Christian does not hinder one from any laudable course in the commercial and literary lines of activity. On the contrary, personal Christianity is a vast help to one in any secular pursuit. Hence a spiritual preparation is an infinite blessing, for both time and eternity. Get it without delay!

## OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Aim at that which is good, cleave to that which is good, occupy your time with that which is good, fill your thoughts with that which is good, and the assaults of evil will have lost half their power. An earnest employment, a steady purpose in life, a diligent use of time—these are an irresistible panoply against vice; these strike out of the devil's hands his worst implements of temptation.

You will remember that terrible truth in one of the Lord's sternest parables, about the evil spirit's returning to "the house whence he came out, and finding it empty, swept, and garnished; then goeth he and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there, and the last state of that man is worse than the first." What does that "empty, swept and garnished" mean? It means that if your heart is not preoccupied with good, it will be invaded by evil.

Oh, beware of idleness in its every form; idle procreatinations, idle "ah," idle habits, idle thoughts—these are the certain ruin of the soul. The laborer who stands idle in the market place is ever ready to be hired in the devil's service. The worm of sin gnaws deepest into the idle heart. Preoccupy your heart with good; preoccupy your time with honest industry, and you are safe. "Whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report; if there be any virtue, any praise, think on these things." Evil can as little encroach on the domain of good as darkness can force its way into the circle of radiance which a lamp flings into the night. Remember that since all sin begins in thought, if your thoughts are safe, then you are safe.—F. W. Farrar, D.D.

## SEEING AND KNOWING.

By Arthur S. Burrows.

Just before His passion, Jesus told His disciples about heaven and their coming place, with Him forever. Philip appears to have been dull of spiritual apprehension. Perhaps he thought of the revelation God gave to Moses, who had asked: "Show me Thy glory." Philip desired visible manifestation of God our Heavenly Father. He failed to realize the present Jesus. Jesus asked in surprise: "Have I been so long time with you, and thou not know Me, Philip?" Philip's motto was: "Seeing is believing."

The Greeks sought visible manifestations of their gods, and their will. They did not understand that the universe is the visible sublime manifestation of God. Philip learned the Fatherhood of God in the loving-kindness of Jesus the Son of God. Paul learned to "walk by faith, and not by sight." Jesus comes to each of us. His personality is divine. His voice is the love of God. His words are the message of God. His works are the power of God. His cross is the forgiveness of God. His resurrection is the proof of God. His intercession is our security with God. His promised return is our gathering into our Father's eternal home!

Augustine devoted much time and labor to the study of the Trinity. One day, as he wandered by the seashore, he observed a boy filling his ditch in the sand with sea water. He asked the boy what he was doing. The boy replied: "I want to empty the sea into my ditch." Augustine thought as he went on: "Am I not trying to do the same, exhausting my reason trying to collect the infinity of God within the limits of my little mind?" Have we not discovered that truth is different from fact? Obedient and trusting souls have contact with the truth of the Christ, and can not understand the power of the truth. Truth in the soul is power, and not opinion.

Note the silences of Jesus throughout the gospels. He says of heaven: "If it were not so, I would have told you." Regarding our final place, Jesus says: "I go to prepare a place for you." Regarding His absence He says: "I come again, and will receive you unto myself." You have your hard times? Jesus also was the "Man of Sorrows and acquainted with griefs." You meet with perplexities? Jesus also said: "My soul is burdened." You are impatient to know more of Christ? Inspired revelation declares that "we shall see Him as He is"; that "we shall be like Him."

Be patient yet a little while, as Jesus said. We are experiencing essential truth in our common life. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall dwell within the shadow of the Almighty."—Herald and Presbyterian.

## THE PREACHER.

He preached of science—an attentive through

Admiring heard;  
The nation's weal—the listening multitude

Approved his word;  
The social need—and thousands gave Assenting nod;

He preached the Cross—and men were won

From sin to God.

—Jennie E. Richards.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

M., Mar. 23.—Men who are holy. Lev. 11: 41-45.

T., Mar. 31.—Sanctified by the truth. John 17: 15-19.

W., Apr. 1.—Without "spot or wrinkle." Eph. 5: 25-27.

T., Apr. 2.—After Christ's example. Rom. 15: 1-6.

F., Apr. 3.—Like God. Lev. 19: 1-8.

S., Apr. 4.—Seeing God. Heb. 12: 14-17.

Sun., Apr. 5.—Topic: Songs of the Heart. IV. The men whom God accepts.

Ps. 24. (Consecration meeting.)

Y.P. Topic, April 5.—Songs of the Heart. Psalm 24.

## ACCEPTED BY GOD.\*

## Some Bible Hints.

Better to ascend the hill of the Lord than to ascend a throne, and to stand in His holy place than to stand before kings (v. 3).

As only those whose natural eyes are pure and clear see God's creation, so only those that are pure in heart T., Apr. 2.—After Christ's example. Rom. The "blessing from the Lord" is "righteousness"; that involves all good things (v. 4).

Those that seek God, God seeks (v. 6).

## Suggestive Thoughts.

Those that are accepted of God are acceptable to God's children; not, necessarily, to other men.

God will not accept a part of us, or even the most of us, but He must have all or nothing.

We are not our own; we are bought. Our bodies, and all that they can do, must be living sacrifices, if we would be acceptable to God.

When God accepts us, He accepts us not on trial and for a short time, but forever.

## A Few Illustrations.

When God examines us for His service, instead of a civil-service examination paper, it is our character that He reads.

An editor accepts a manuscript if it is good, and is needed; but God always needs men, and Christ supplies the needed fitness.

A lover is accepted, if both he and she are in love with each other. But God always loves us.

A battleship is accepted if it proves itself able to go at a certain rate, carrying a certain load. So are we tested by our deeds.

## To Think About.

Am I seeking acceptance with God half-heartedly?

Have I confidence in God's promises?

Am I consecrated, and so accepted?

## A Cluster of Quotations.

We realize what we are redeemed and delivered from, but we often do not apprehend what we are redeemed and delivered to.—George F. Pentecost.

The fact that our holiest things need to be accepted through Christ is no reason why we should neglect to be holy.—J. Hudson Taylor.

A good many are trying to work with the anointing they got three years ago.—D. L. Moody.

The love of God is as universal now as in the day when Jesus Christ said it included every man. — Robert E. Spear.

## PRAYER.

Our Father in heaven, we bow in reverence before a contemplation of Thy Fatherhood. How Thy brooding love reaches out to all the orphaned, lonely, burdened and anxious spirits of mankind, as we well know. Surpassing is Thy compassion and comfort, Helper of all hearts hungry and heavy. Remember at this time, we entreat Thee, all parents who are fearful for the souls of their children beset by this world's allurements. Give them the sweet comfort of Thy promises. Cheer those who are separated from their beloved, either by earth's distances, or by the barriers of misunderstanding, or by the narrow chasm of the grave. May we find one another at the best, and our own best selves, in Thee, O Father dear, our only hope and refuge. This we ask in the name of Thy well-beloved Son. Amen.—Philadelphia Westminster.

\*Y. P. Topic, April 5, Songs of the Heart, Psalm 24.