

we have made an entire consecration of our life to Him.

II. THE NATURE OF THE TESTIMONY.

What is this testimony which we are to set to our seal? It is:

1. *An Indictment.* The first step to God is the consciousness that we are sinners. God charges us with violation of His law, and we are to plead guilty or not guilty. If we deny our guilt we reject the very first proposition with which the Savior comes to us. Shall any one dare to stand before the righteous Judge and plead, "Lord, I have kept thy law in all things; I have never sinned; I am in no need of a mediator?" Let one, if he will, rest his hope of heaven on such a plea, but the Bible has warned him of his peril. Nicodemus thought he had kept the law; yet the Savior told him: Nicodemus, your case is utterly hopeless in your present condition. Your course has been wrong from the very beginning. Nothing can save you except you be born again. "Except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." And Paul felt this when he wrote (Rom. vii: 9), "I was alive without the law once; but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died."

2. *Pardon.* After the civil war, when a general amnesty was offered, each man, to profit by the act, was required first to take the oath of allegiance. We are rebels against God; from Him alone can we look for pardon. Through Christ it is offered to every one, but it must be accepted before it becomes effective. All are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, whether they wish to be or not; but the redemption may be accepted, or postponed, or rejected—and postponement till to-morrow is rejection for today. We must set to our seal this testimony of pardon—take the oath of allegiance to God's government.

3. *A Testament.* If property comes into my possession by will, it is necessary that my name and a seal be affixed to the will before the property is at my disposal. In this way I show my ac-

ceptance of the legacy and the conditions imposed upon it. I also evince my belief that the will is genuine, and is what it purports to be. The testimony of the Gospel is that God has made a testament for us. He not only grants us pardon, but peace and joy in this life, and in the world to come life eternal. These are offered to each of us freely; but we must set our seal to the testimony to show our acceptance and our faith in the genuineness of the testament. He will not force His unspeakable riches upon us against our will.

JESUS THE SAVIOR.

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"*Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.*"—
Matt. i: 21.

Among the Jews names were significant of character or office, e. g., Abraham, father of many; Jacob, deceiver or supplanter; Isaiah, salvation of the Lord; Iscariot, a man of the bag or of murder; Jesus, Savior. Hence the name which the angel of the Lord directed Joseph to give to the Son of Mary, Jesus or Savior, and the reason for it—"He shall save the people from their sins."

How to get rid of sin has been the great problem of the race. How to restrain from it, destroy it, prevent it, cure it, atone for it, has baffled the ingenuity of man. Sin is the one great factor in all religions—heathen as well as Christian. And now this blessed announcement of a child that was soon to be born who would solve this greatest of all problems, namely, deliver men from sin. Hence our theme, Jesus, the Savior from sin.

I. *Jesus is an omnipotent Savior.* 1. The presumption of the fact, from the infinite wisdom and goodness of God, who never provides a cause unequal to the effect to be produced, who never errs in carrying out His great purposes of redemption. 2. The declaration of the fact. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him." Heb. vii: 25.