

Prayer.

Father in heaven, we feel that we are made for thee and cannot rest until we are folded in thine everlasting arm. Draw us to thyself and tell us thy love. May we have such hearts as will be willing and quick to hear thee. The world is thundering around us, but through all its noise and confusion may we be able to discern the accents of thy voice. Purify us from earthiness and sin that our spirits may blend with thine in blessed fellowship. May we dwell so close to thee that the light of thy face shall stream through us and transfigure us. Calm all our anxious thoughts and fill us with serenity and peace. Then may we come down from the mount of transfiguration to touch the great troubled world with healing hands. In sympathy with it and in service and sacrifice for it may we find our own relief and health and strength and joy. And this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Proof of Greatness.

Christ's resurrection is a proof of His own personal greatness. Paul teaches that by it He was declared to be "the Son of God with power." During His earthly ministry Jesus was constantly intimating wonderful things concerning Himself, assuming the loftiest prerogatives and exciting the highest expectations. He claimed to be one with the Father; "to be both the Light and Life" of men; He declared that no human soul could approach the Father save through Him; that he had come to found a heavenly kingdom, and that he was older than Abraham, and in Himself superior to the Law and the Prophets. But the climax of all these sublime representations, or, rather their humiliating anti-climax, was the Cross and the Sepulchre. In contempt of Him and His lofty assumptions, they nailed Him to the tree, and wrote over Him the derisive words: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Thus abruptly is His career brought to an end. The lips that spoke such commanding words are rudely silenced, the hands that should have executed His mighty promises are mockingly bound, and the life that antedated the career of Abraham is violently terminated, and a tomb swallows up and covers with shame and ignominy the huge pretensions which at one time threatened to compel the allegiance of all Palestine. As we mark this inconclusive and inconsequential ending of a career so wonderfully benign and so wonderfully imposing, we cannot but feel that something is wrong. Either the close is wrong—shockingly, outrageously wrong—or it is itself wrong in inception and conduct from first to last. Which? The answer breaks upon us in the triumphant strains of His resurrection. He reversed the decision of His judges, confounded His wretched adversaries, vindicated His essential glory, smote the realms of wickedness with consternation, and filled the courts of heaven with joy.—Dr. Lorimer.

We lose the zest of living because we fail to assimilate our blessings. All that comes to us is, in some way, intended for us. But, like apples which rot upon the trees, they are lost to us because we failed to use them in time. We weep under the outspread branches of our dead mercies when we might have been rejoicing in their luxurious fruits.

This world is full of hands that would be stretched toward us if they only knew our need.

Our Young People

June 29. Modern Idols.

Some Bible Hints.

Your God is your appetite (Phil. 3: 19), if for the sake of your appetite you do the least thing that God would not approve.

We are to beware of covetousness (Luke 12: 15), "which is idolatry," because it masquerades under so many plausible forms, such as ambition, regard for the opinion of others, care for one's loved ones.

A knowledge of what life really is (Luke 12: 15) and what death really is, is the best cure for covetousness, which is death, but is sought for the sake of life.

One coveting only is permitted: we may 'covet earnestly the best gifts,' we may seek to be "rich toward God" (Luke 12: 21). These are the best gifts, because they are obtained by giving them to others.

Suggestive Thoughts.

Love of fame is a modern idol; to overthrow it, remember Christ's "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you!"

Love of money is a modern idol; to overthrow it, seek the gold that thieves cannot steal.

Love of amusement is a modern idol; to overthrow it, remember the "peace which the world cannot give."

Love of power is a modern idol; to overthrow it, look ahead and think what and where you will be in a thousand years.

A Few Illustrations.

Every idol will fall if you knock its pedestal out from under. The pedestal beneath every modern idol is selfishness.

When Mahmoud dared to smash the idol, he found that it was stuffed with gold and jewels that came tumbling out. Every idol you overthrow enriches you.

Some Fiji Islanders were too tender-hearted to burn their war idol, as they at first proposed, but drowned him; which proves that he was still their idol.

Christ compared the overthrow of an idol to the plucking out of one's own eye. Do not expect an easy task.

To Think About.

What idol am I cherishing in my heart? Am I excusing myself in idolatries I like, while declaiming against idolatries I do not care for?

Am I seeking to overthrow any idolatry in my own strength?

A Cluster of Quotations.

Do not wade far out into the dangerous sea of this world's comfort. Never suffer your goods to become your God.—Spurgeon.

The covetous person lives as if the world were made altogether for him, and not he for the world.—South.

'Tis better to be lowly born
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perked up in a glistening grief,
And wear a golden sorrow.—Shakespeare.
Gladness and goodness are not means, but ends!—Coleridge.

When Local Unions Prosper.

When two or more of their societies mean business.

When the president holds regular meetings of the executive committee, and works till he gets a full attendance each time.

When the union meetings, however few they must be, are made worth attending each time.

When the members of the societies are given some part, however small, in each public meeting.

When the speakers treat Christian Endeavor topics, and not topics quite as appropriate for a meeting of any other organization.

When the Endeavorers put their hearts into the work, and earnestly seek to help one another, through the union meetings, into a larger Christian life.

Pray Continually.

Prayer not only in the morning watch, but prayer sent voiceless from the heart from hour to hour, makes life hallowed, wakeful and calm. It becomes beautiful with that beauty of God which eye hath not seen. It is not less comfortless for prayer brings the Saviour to our side. We seem to feel his hand in ours in the passion of our endeavor to do right when duty and interest clash, and his grasp gives firmness to our faltering resolution. Ah! prayer, continually lived in, makes the presence of a holy and loving God the air which life breathes and by which it lives, so that mingles consciously with the work of the day.—Stopford A. Brooke.

The casket was made for the jewel, not the jewel for the casket. So the body was made for the soul not the soul for the body. As the jewel is of far more value than its case, so the soul is of far more value than its earthly tabernacle. Only as the case serves the jewel is it worth anything, and only as the body serves the soul is it useful. But many act as though the body were the only part to be cared for. Its appetites and passions are given full control. Its demands are recognized and its wishes gratified, and the soul left to starve. Alas, what folly! Soon the body will droop and die, but the soul, whether developed and ennobled or shrivelled and starved, must live forever. Therefore, think on these things. "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Of what use is the casket if the jewel is lost?

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	July 4.—The law against idols.	Ex. 20: 4, 6, 23
Tues.,	" 5.—Weakness of idols.	Jer. 10: 11-15
Wed.,	" 6.—Superstitions that last.	Acts 17: 22-29
Thurs.,	" 7.—Wedded to our idols.	Hos. 4: 16, 17
Fri.,	" 8.—Idols oppose Christ.	Acts 14: 11-18
Sat.,	" 9.—Destroying our idols.	Gen. 35: 1-5
Sun.,	" 10.—Topic. Some modern idols and how to overthrow them.	Luke 12: 15-21; Phil. 3: 17-19.

It is said that "when the Sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord" that Satan came also among them. The incident is not altogether exceptional. Satan has been found in many congregations since that day, and always, as then, to stir up trouble.

We are told that in the New Hebrides every man is considered a heathen who does not ask a blessing at the table. This consideration is not far wrong, although it widens the area of a heathendom quite a good deal.