

them, become the children of God. He has told you so. Believe it, and take Him at His blessed Word.

Mark you, that the sincerity, the reality of your prayer must be tested by your own conduct. It will be a solemn farce, almost a blasphemy, for you to ask the Lord Jesus to make a different person of you, a better, purer, stronger person, and yet refuse yourself to think, speak, and behave any differently. Put prayer with practice, whatever it may cost you. Begin right off to do what Jesus tells you, both in His Word, and through the voice of conscience. Up to this time you have been serving another master, and you cannot serve two at once. You must *stop* the bad service before you can begin the better service of the new Master. Then resist the very first sin that presents itself; resist in Christ's name, and to please Him. Godly repentance is striking sin down with Christ's help. I do not endorse quite every line in the brilliant book of my friend Henry Drummond, but he is right when he says that "whatever the conscious hour of the new birth may be, it is probably defined by the first real victory over sin."

Thrusting out the old master, and fighting down the old sin, and quitting the old evil practices, are not enough. "Cease to do evil" is only one-half of the commandment. "Learn to do right" is the other and the better half. Christ meets you in your approach to Him with this indispensable condition—Obey Me, learn of Me, follow Me. A child learns how to walk, and how to talk by using its tongue and using its feet in copying its parents. Begin to obey Christ in the very first thing that comes in your way. Clinch the new desire, the new purpose, by putting it into practice. You must depend on the Lord Jesus Christ to give you the new character; He expects from you the new conduct. His part He performs by His Holy Spirit working upon your heart. Your own part you must perform for yourself as truly as when you write your name or eat your breakfast. I entreat you, do not be satisfied with telling your minister or any one else, "I accept Christ as my Saviour," unless you are beginning to feel, act, and be what your Saviour demands you. More than one has said that in an inquiry room, has been ticketed as a convert, and gone away satisfied. But alas! outside of the door there has been no changed life, *no Christ in the conduct.*

Finally, my friend, this whole transaction of salvation in this world and for eternity, lies entirely between your soul and your Saviour. Honest prayer for pardon is *coming*. Breaking off from sin is *coming*. Doing anything, however small, because Christ commands it, is *coming*. You have been heading your conduct away from Christ all your life; that road means hell if you keep on. Now if you head your course of conduct right toward Jesus Christ as your crucified Lord and Master, you are "coming to Christ." Peace, power, joy, victory, fruitfulness, usefulness all lie in that direction. Keep on coming, and you will be overcoming the enemy at every step. Take your first step immediately; the last one will be the one that lands you in Heaven.

HOW TO DEAL WITH SIN.

It is a blessed thought that our Heavenly Father's ear is ever open to our cry of penitence, and His arms are always open to us, when we come back to Him with "Father, I have sinned, and am no more worthy to be called Thy child."

Every burdened soul seeks relief somewhere. The most sagacious device—and the most dangerous too—in Romanism, is its "confessional." I turned into a Popish chapel one day, and watched the line of men and women filing up toward a curtain, behind which sat a stout, ruddy-faced priest. I could not but think how like a common sewer the poor priest must reek when every Saturday night comes, and such loads of human depravity have been emptied into his ears! And I wanted to proclaim to the deluded devotees, "There is One only Who hath power to forgive sin; go to the loving High Priest who is touched with your infirmities, and can wash away your leprosies."

The problem how to deal with sin is the most pressing and practical one we all have to encounter. Every method is a delusion and a cheat, except the one laid down in the Gospel. Christ the Sin-Revealer, Christ the Sin-Atoner, Christ the Sin-Pardoner, Christ the Sin-Healer, is to you and me THE ONLY SOLUTION. What a blessed relief, and salvation, too, it is for our souls when we throw ourselves down in genuine penitence, and grasp His Cross, and hear Him say, "Go thy way; thy sins are forgiven thee!"—*Chryler.*