

# Our Young People

## REWARDS.

Topic for March 4.—"How God Pays Men"—Matt. 19:31; 20:1-16.

### The Rewards of Service.

BY REV. L. G. BUTLER, D.D.

Every promise to pay written in God's promise-book will be paid in full. We live in a world full of unpaid promises. Even Endeavors may not pay the easily kept promises of the Christian Endeavor pledge. God does not always pay, in kind, those who forsake houses or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, that they may follow Christ; but as in the Revised Version and in the old as well, the promise is that we shall receive a hundredfold, for every sacrifice we make, even to the sacrifice of life itself, if we follow Christ.

Then, with the intense Jewish hatred of Christ, following Him was literally to forsake houses and family and friends—to be an outcast. In pagan lands to-day following Christ means to be cast out, whilst in Christian lands, the following of Christ—the being a genuine Christian—ordinarily brings honor and esteem and love a hundredfold, even for the ungodly. Consistent Christian living is a passport to the confidence and love of the highest and best and noblest in Christendom—the good name is beyond price.

Whilst our Father sends rain and sunshine upon the evil and the good, that He may win the world to Himself, His best gifts, those which are not temporary, but which enter into our inner and real life; our character, that which abide, when the world vanishes and when this vapory, dreamy life fades out—that which goes with us beyond the grave, and which remains when sun and stars fade out—best rewards are conditioned upon forsaking whatever hinders our following the Saviour, the Pattern, the King, who came to destroy evil within us, and to establish His kingdom of righteousness and peace in our hearts.

No servant of God serves Him for naught, and yet the man who serves from selfish and mercenary motives, merely for the reward promised, fails of that reward. This world and the god of this world bewitch and deceive men by the glittering baubles of present reward; and life is strewn with wrecked homes and hearts and characters, evidences of Satan's broken promises to pay. His servants sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.

The Father's love does not always give what the child asks, but with a paternal wisdom which we can easily understand, discriminates between the good and the evil, withholds the evil and gives the and in abundant measure.

Search every home, and inquire of every heart in the world-round Christendom, but you search in vain for a single witness who will testify that one of God's promises has ever failed. Whether you find follow-

ers of Jesus in palaces or in hovels,—and you will find them in high places and in low—the poor of this world, ordinarily the rich in faith, the testimony of every one is, that God's promises stand forever, and they are yea and amen in Christ Jesus. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the promises of God will never pass away.

In these days of abundant offers of God's gracious love to all men, we must not fail to count the cost of following Christ. The law of self-denial is written over the entrance gate to God's kingdom, and none enter into that kingdom who do not make the denial of self, even to crucifixion, if needs be, the law of the new life in Jesus Christ. We may enter the church and the Christian Endeavor society, and yet fail of the kingdom and its rewards.

To those who love God, self-denying service is a joy, and it is to service that we are called. Even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. The loving parent, living for the child, knows the joy of paternal sacrifice, and love always suffers and is kind. This atmosphere of love makes earth like Eden, and brings the new Jerusalem down from heaven, making loving service, even in the cup of cold water, its own rich reward. So God pays man. The Bible is His promise-book.

### Life's Story.

BY EMMA S. THOMAS.

Sunshine and shadow,  
Roses and thorns,  
Flower and weed,  
And life's story is told,  
Sadness and pleasure,  
Losses and gain,  
Warfare and peace,  
So life's story grows old.

### For Daily Reading.

Mon., Feb. 26.—The incentives of reward.  
Prov. 25:21, 22; Heb. 11:25-26.  
Tues., Feb. 27.—Doing good for pay.  
Luke 6:27-38.  
Wed., Feb. 28.—The riches of wisdom.  
Prov. 8:10-21.  
Thurs., Mar. 1.—The great price. 1 Pet. 1:13-21.  
Fri., Mar. 2.—Christ's wealth ours. 2 Cor. 8:2-7.  
Sat., Mar. 3.—The wages of sin. Rom. 6:12-23.  
Sun., Mar. 4.—Topic. **How God pays men.**  
Matt. 19:30; 20:1-16.

### Our Hope.

You know that kings have some servants in their courts who receive not present wages in their hand, but live upon their hopes. The King of kings hath also servants in His courts, that for the present get little or nothing but the heavy cross of Christ, troubles without and ter-

rors within; but they live upon hope and when it cometh to the parting of the inheritance, they remain in the house as heirs.—Rutherford.

### Some Great Rewards.

God rewarded Daniel with the lions' den—and the third place in the kingdom.

He rewarded Job with loss of all—and its restoration greatly increased.

He rewarded Paul with imprisonment and torture and contentment and the crown of righteousness.

He rewarded John the Baptist with death and with Christ's supreme praise.

He rewarded Christ with the cross—and with "Thou art my beloved Son."

Daily Companion.

### Hints for Talks and Testimonies.

To whom are God's rewards offered?

What must one do to receive a reward from God?

What limit is there to God's rewards?

What decides the size of the reward given to any one?

How are God's rewards always just?

How do God's rewards differ from those of the world?

What rewards come to the Christian in this life?

Why does not God reward men with worldly prosperity in proportion to their deserts?

What kinds of rewards are given in the future life?

What place ought the thought of reward to have in our lives?

### To "One or the Least."

Haydn, the famous composer, when a boy, was employed by the organist of the cathedral at Vienna; but when his voice broke, his master dismissed him from the choir, and afterwards turned him into the streets. A poor musician of the name of Spangler discovered him, and, though he himself lodged with his wife and children in a single room on a fifth story, he offered the outcast Haydn a corner of his garret and a seat at his table. Haydn at a later date nobly repaid the kindness by appointing Spangler as the principal tenor singer in the chapel of the Prince Esterhazy.

### Friendship With Christ.

Zinzendorf, when a boy used to write little notes to the Saviour, and throw them out of the window, hoping that He would find them. Later in life, so strong was his faith in the friendship of Christ and in his own need of that friendship as a daily solace, that once, when travelling, he sent back his companion, that he might converse more freely with the Lord, with whom he spoke audibly. So do we all need friendly converse with whom our souls love. "He alone is a thousand companions; He alone is a world of friends. That man never knew what it was to be familiar with God who complains of the want of friends when God is with him." But who can originate such conceptions of God as are necessary to the enjoyment of his friendship in prayer, without time for thought, for self-collection, for concentration of soul? Momentary devotion, if genuine, must presuppose the habit of studious prayer.—Austin Phelps.