

"Why do we fail where the Methodists are so successful?" One answer was given from out of the honest conviction of a member's heart, "We want a religion of blood, an atonement of blood; we are lacking the power of the blood."—*Bishop Peck.*

3. THE APPOINTED ORDINANCE, vers. 24, 25. *Obligatory.* SHALL OBSERVE. It should always be a *privilege*; but God makes it also a *duty* to remember his providential deliverances. The observance of God's ordinances not optional with his children. Some rites and ceremonies necessary to the existence of the Church. (2) *Universal.* THREE . . . THY SINS. Offspring reap benefits conferred upon ancestors. Ordinances bind families to each other and to God. (3) *Perpetual* in the Jewish Church. WHEN YE . . . COME. Observe it: not only on this bloody night in Egypt, but annually through the forty years' wandering; and on the other side of Jordan—even "forever." Thus will Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper till safe in heaven, and then forever will they praise Him who saved them by his blood. Rev. i. 5; v. 9. For mode of keeping Passover see Exod. xii. 3-20. Compare Exod. xxiii. 15; Duet. xvi. ii. 8; 1 Cor. xi. 23-25.

If a friend give us a ring at his death, we wear it to keep up the memory of our friend; much more then ought we to keep up the memorial of Christ's death in the sacrament.—*Thos. Watson.*

Beware of Cain's spirit, going to the altar without blood.—*Bowes.*

A traveller and a merchant differ thus: a traveller goes from place to place to see and be amused; but a merchant goes from port to port that he may grow rich by trade. So a formal person goes from ordinance to ordinance, and is satisfied with the work; but a godly man looks to take in rich lading, that he may go away and take with him some of the spiritual wealth of the sanctuary.—*Spencer.*

4. THE CHILDREN'S QUESTION, vers. 26, 27. CHILDREN SAY. (a) Children to be encouraged to seek knowledge concerning the evidences of the Church. (b) Children should be present at the Sacraments of the Lord's house. (c) Believe that the Holy Spirit will impress youthful hearts with what they see and hear in God's house. (d) Patiently and wisely explain *doctrines, duties, and privileges.* (e) Early teach children to refer deliverances and all other blessings to the Great Head of the Church. (f) Show how the Lord's Supper takes the place of the

"Passover." (g) See in these verses one phase of the ancient "Church-School," as a mode of religious home instruction.

A bud is seldom unprotected; it is usually covered with thick and firm scales, which shield it from the cold winds and frosts of early spring, as safely as a brood of chickens under the protecting wings of the hen. Like this is the protection the All-Father throws around childhood, in the family relation and the influence of the Sunday-school. The helplessness of childhood appeals to us for instruction and care.—*Foster.*

5. THE GREAT SALVATION, vers. 29, 30, 31. (1) *The multitude of Egypt's dead.* ALL THE FIRST-BORN—both of man and beast. Guilty Pharaoh, cruel taskmasters, the high and low, all share alike—ghastly death everywhere. No imagination can depict the scenes of horror. Sin—rebellion against God—the sole cause. (2) *Egypt's midnight wail.* ALIL. Every family in a mighty realm. GREAT CRY. Such as no nation ever raised before or since. For generations oppressed Israel had cried in bitterest bondage; now, in turn, Israel's oppressors wail. (3) *Israel shielded from death.* Egypt black with despair; Goshen bright with hope. The "destroyer" becomes the deliverer. "He can create and he destroy." "God in history." Death for the sinner; life for the believer. (4) *Israel rescued from bondage.* SELF-SAME DAY. No delay. Salvation complete. All escaped. Slavery ended. Liberty gained. No more taskmasters. Joy unspeakable. So Christ saves from sin, from fear of death, from death itself. He gives life, liberty, joy, an eternal weight of glory. John i. 4; Gal. v. 1, 22; 2 Cor. iv. 17. Henceforth the "blood of sprinkling" is the symbol of the GREAT SALVATION. Heb. xii. 24; 1 Peter i. 2.

I dare assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that the inspired writers attribute all the blessings of salvation to the precious blood of Christ. If we have *redemption* it is through his blood; if we are *justified*, it is by his blood; if washed from our moral stains, it is by his blood, which cleanseth us from all sin; if we have *victory over the last enemy*, we obtain it not only by the word of the divine testimony, but through the blood of the Lamb; and if we *gain admittance into heaven*, it is because we "have washed our robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, and therefore are we before the throne of God. Everything depends on the blood of Christ; and "without shedding of blood is no remission."—*Dr. R. Newton.*