

potent and helpless. So is every one that makes or trusts in or worships them. The whole effect of idolatry is to reduce the worshipper to the idol's level, to make him as dumb, stupid, senseless, as the object of his worship. The historic fact is that every generation of idolaters sinks to a lower level. The deterioration goes on rapidly toward the condition of the brute, and the unreasoning, unthinking, irrational idol toward a blank materialism. The general truth is thus suggested that all worship tends to assimilate the worshipper to the god he worships.

1. His god suggests the thoughts, the conceptions, that rule in his intellectual life.

2. His god becomes the ideal that rules in his practical life.

3. His god determines the associations that govern his social and family life.

An instructive chapter on this theme may be found in Walker's "Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation."

The Believer's Standing Place.
Behold there is a place by ME, and thou shalt stand upon a rock.—Exodus xxxiii: 21.

To those who like typical texts there is a peculiar charm in such as this: a place by ME, and a rock for a standing place. What suggestions:

1. Of the believer's firm foundation—the Rock.

2. Of the believer's fellowship with God—a place by Me.

3. Of the believer's favor with God—a vision of His glory.

The Power to Testify.
I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the Lord.—Ezekiel xxix: 21.

THIS was a promise to a prophet in one of the most critical periods of the history of God's ancient people. It was a time of foreign domination

and of threatened apostasy. Prophets had so much occasion to rebuke the people, to warn and forewarn, to denounce and condemn, that they often precipitated their own persecution and destruction by their fidelity. God assures Ezekiel that He will give him the opening of the mouth in the midst of the people; and not only so, but will with it impart that divine convincing power that they shall know that Jehovah is speaking through the messenger. Here is suggested the two great needs, especially of the ambassador of Christ, and in fact of every disciple:

1. The gift of utterance.
2. The gift of unction.

The Divinity of Privilege.
I have said ye are God's.—Psalm lxxxii: 6.

THIS was said of the judges of Israel. Being the chosen receptacles and distributors of the divine messages to men—administrators of His law, vehicles of His will—even those who perverted this sacred truth were regarded as enjoying a divine rank of privilege. The text suggests, especially as quoted by our Lord (John x: 34, 35), that there is in the enjoyment of exalted privilege a kind of approximation to divinity. A child taken into the father's confidence is by that fact lifted to a practical equality with the father. The privileges of the disciple make him partaker, not of the divine favor only, but natural also.

Funeral Service.
For a Useful Man.
David served his own generation by the will of God.—Acts xiii: 36.

FINE conception of a holy and useful life.

I. Service. Grandeur of word—not lordship, but service. The greatness of doing good—of helping others, of condescending to be a servant. Contrast those who love to have pre-eminence while they sing, "O to be nothing!"