

Christian Life and Work.

CHRIST AS OUR TRUSTEE.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

The only basis of all honest business is personal integrity, and the only assets that make a bank or an insurance company reliable are capacity and conscience. "Whom can I trust?" has been the sorrowful inquiry of more than one man who has found his "securities" proving insecure and the word of his fellow-man as brittle as pipe-clay. Let us rejoice that in the most momentous of all interests to us there is one Trustee who has never broken His word, never defaulted in His promises, and never lost what was committed to His keeping.

An old hero in Nero's Roman guard-house felt a glow of holy ecstasy when he wrote to his son, Timothy: "I know whom I have trusted, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." He had put his soul in trust with his Redeemer, and felt no more uneasiness than he did about the rising of the morrow's sun.

The same assurance that Paul had, may you and I have if we have made the almighty, ever loving Son of God our Trustee.

Only two questions I need to ask: "Is He able to save me?" and "Is He willing to do it?" The answer to the first question is that Jesus Christ is divine, and therefore omnipotent. The answer to the second is that He has laid down His life as a ransom for you and me; He has borne our sins in His own body on the cross. He sums up the whole vital matter in this golden utterance, "I give unto them" (*i. e.*, unto those who believe on Him and obey Him), "eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of My hands."

That is enough. We have only to take Him at His word. If you and I accept implicitly this declaration of Jesus Christ and entrust our immortal souls to Him, and should be lost forever, it would clearly be no fault of ours. Reverently, be it said, we have a right to hold our Lord and Master responsible for our eternal welfare. I cannot more literally entrust a valuable package to the keeping of an express company, or my life to the ocean steamship on which I set my foot, than I entrust my soul to the keeping of Jesus Christ, with the full expectation of finding it safe "at that great day."

But I expect other things from my faithful Trustee besides by final salvation in the next world. I expect protection, oversight, and constant help in this world. He assures me that He is "able to keep me from falling."

Life has slippery places, and sometimes, like yonder path up "Skytop," leads very close to a precipice. Thousands are falling from whom we had expected better things; there are no obituaries so sad as the stories of those who have gone down with fearful

crash from high places of influence and honor.

Never have I heard of a good man having fallen when he was humbly striving to do Christ's will, and leaning on Christ's help. Every fall of a professed Christian comes from venturing on dangerous ground with reliance only on self-support. The moment that Peter trusted Peter, he sunk; the moment that he trusted Christ, the water became like granite under his feet. Strange that he did not remember that lesson when he began to boast that he would never desert his Master.

Does a genuine Christian ever take a false step, or make a slip into sin? Yes; when he makes "flesh his trust," or ventures where he has no business to go. The proof that he is a Christian is that he repents bitterly and walks more circumspectly ever afterwards. Such a man or woman finds forgiveness. While the Christless sinner wallows on in sin, the penitent Christian flees to the cleansing Saviour to have the ugly stain washed away.

That, I suppose, is the meaning of the phrase, "preserved *blameless*." Our sin repented of is not laid to our account for Jesus' sake. When we reach heaven we shall stumble or sin no longer, and then we may be "presented *faultless*" before the throne. There the white robe will never be exposed to a stain, for nothing entereth there which defileth. Will we know ourselves then? It will seem so strange to get where we can stop uttering the "Lord's Prayer," and will not need any watching.

In this brief article I cannot recount one-half of all the blessings which flow from making Christ our Trustee. How many burdens we stupidly try to carry that we ought to roll over on His everlasting arm. For our work, for our thorough and diligent performance of duty, we are responsible, but not for results.

We ministers and teachers are responsible for our sermons and instructions, but not for the conversion of souls. That is the Holy Spirit's office, not yours or mine. We make Him the Trustee of the truth we faithfully preach or teach. The power of a sermon is weighed by the amount of the Holy Spirit's influence which it contains. Christ promises His Spirit to those who seek aright and use the weapons He provides.

What a precious peace this complete trust in Jesus brings! There are many anxieties that make people lie awake in this world of panics and of perils. "To-morrow I will go and draw that deposit out of the bank," says the frightened merchant as he tosses on his uneasy pillow.

But a true believer can sleep serenely as far as his *real treasures* are concerned. His deposit for all eternity is secure. There is no torture more intense than distrust. The wife who doubts the love of him to whom she has plighted her all, the mother who fears that her son is deceiving her, feel the pangs of a perpetual purgatory.