

THE GREAT SALVATION.

By C. H. Wetherbe.

The salvation which Christ offers to sinful people is a very great one. He came into this world for the express purpose of saving sinners, and that means sinners of all classes and all conditions. There are people who think that they are too great sinners to be saved.

This thought has hindered very many from committing themselves at once to the Lord of salvation. There have been hours when they have had a clearer vision of their sinfulness than they ordinarily had. A deep sense of guilt alarmed them. They wanted to be saved, but they said that it was useless for them to appeal to God for deliverance, for he would not heed their cry. This is absolutely untrue. It is one of Satan's hateful and harmful falsehoods. He is ever trying to make sinners believe that their condition is positively hopeless. The very reverse of this is true. No one is too great a sinner to be saved by the great Saviour of men. Multitudes of great sinners have been saved with an eternal salvation.

There were such ones in Christ's day on earth. Of them He said that their sins were "many." And afterwards, when Christ was in heaven, Paul, the great sinner, was gloriously saved. He said that his salvation was an example to other great sinners. His own conversion was a great encouragement to very ungodly people. Paul's thought was that if Christ would and could save so great a sinner as he was, He would gladly save all other such sinners. And in recent years in our land, the very worst of sinners have been changed into men and women of sterling and strong Christian character.

The late C. H. Spurgeon of London said: "Forlorn and lost, full of evil and self-condemned—you who feel as if you were possessed with evil spirits, leprosy with sin, in whom Jesus will find ample room for the display of His holy skill! Of you I might say, as He once said of the man born blind: You are here that the works of God may be manifested in you. You, with your guilt and depravity, you furnish the empty vessels into which His grace may be poured, the sick souls upon which He may display His matchless power to bless and save. Be hopeful, then, ye sinful ones, and expect that even in you He will work great marvels!" Give the Saviour a chance!

PRAYER.

God of our fathers, be the God of their succeeding race. Let Thy light and Thy truth shine forth and establish themselves in the love and confidence of all mankind. Hide not Thy face from us. In the hiding of Thy face is darkness, and the keeping back of Thy hand is death. Draw near unto us! To our hearts daily do Thou speak comfortably. Rebuke us not in Thine anger, chide us not in Thy displeasure, for the look of Thy judgment will destroy us and the breath of Thine anger will carry us away. Our only hope is in Thy love. Thy love we know best in Christ Jesus, the priest, the victim, the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. In His love would we meet Thee. It is Thine own love, eternal, unchangeable, infinite. We would hide ourselves in it as in a sanctuary that cannot be violated. May we stand in the infinite enclosure, safe from every assault and every temptation. Amen.

It is impossible to question the wisdom and the love of God in this singular ordinance of life, that we attain truth with effort, that we reach certainty through doubt, that we are never able to sit down and rest, but must always be up and doing. It is precisely the strain, the effort the rebuff, which develops and trains the spiritual faculty. If questions are settled for you, if you never face new problems, if you do, and believe what you are told, you may be good children, but you can never be men.—R. A. Horton.

WHY SOME ARE INDIFFERENT.

The church is blamed in these days for almost everything—for the indifference of men to it, among other things. It would be well for those who so readily publish their criticisms of the Church to attempt seriously the work of bringing men to a knowledge of and submission to God. They would soon find that others besides the Church are at fault. The truth is, that the more Christlike the Church the more unacceptable to some people. Many are indifferent to the Church, and even hostile, because they are indifferent and hostile to Christianity, which they will not accept because it interferes with their manner of living. Mr. Moody was once in conversation with a man who sold soap which he claimed would do remarkable things, one of which was to remove grease spots. "The soap will do all that is claimed for it," said he, "but the truth is, it rots the clothes, and if I become a Christian, I must give up my business; and I can't afford to do that." Mr. Moody remarks that it was soap that kept that man out of the Kingdom of Heaven. Naturally, such a man would be indifferent to the Church.—Selected.

SLOWNESS NOT DISCOURAGING.

We all need to remember that we cannot give truth to another as we would unload furniture into an empty house. We should not be discouraged if the principles we fight for gain slow headway. An editorial writer in the British Weekly says that "Monday once proved by experiment that gold was among the slowest of metals to sink; a precipitate of gold, he showed, might take months to fall to the bottom of a glass five inches high." The truths that we long to see sink deep into others' lives will not do this hurriedly; but if they are of God they must triumph. Let us scatter our gold with a free hand, for the supply is abundant.—Sunday School Times.

NOT DARK AT ALL.

The child looked wonderingly in her was clear:
Sad faces drooped around; but on her own
No shadow darkened. Was the end unknown
To her young heart? And struck with sudden fear
Lest Death should taken her by surprise—"My dear,"
Her mother whispered,—"thou wilt soon be gone;
But, oh, my lamb will not be left alone;
Thou art in Death's dark vale, but Christ is near."

The child looked wonderingly in her mother's face.
"I am in no dark vale," she said, and smiled.
"I see the light; it is not dark at all!"
Love, Thou didst light Death's valley for that child;
And to the childlike soul that trusts thy grace
Thus will thou come when Death's dark shadows fall!

GOD DWELLING WITH MAN.

By Rev. J. A. R. Dickson.

This is God's great promise, Ex. xxix. 45; Jno. xiv. 4.
Fulfilled by Christ, Matt. i. 21.
For all believers is effected by the Spirit, I. Cor. i. 6-19; Jno. xiv. 17.
Perfectly fulfilled in the new world, Rev. xxi. 3.

The outcome of this indwelling is Joy, Zech. ii. 10.
Truth, Zech. vii. 3.
Sanctification, I. Cor. vi. 15.
Grace and truth in the life, Jno. i. 14.
Galt, Ont.

"Take you needle, my child, and work at your pattern; it will come out a rose by and by." Life is like that—one stitch at a time taken patiently, and the pattern will come out all right like embroidery.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

THE REASON WHY.*

By Robert E. Speer.

Success is simply the fulfilment of our mission, the faithful discharge of our duty, the doing of the will of God. What the world calls success is a mere external and accidental thing: it is power and wealth and influence. These may or may not accompany success. In many of the most blessedly successful lives in the world there has been obscurity, and bitter poverty, or only a comfortable subsistence. Our Lord's life was the greatest success of any life ever lived, and yet in the world's view it was an utter failure. We must keep the divers meanings of success perfectly clear. True success is the loyal doing of the righteous will of God.

In the great mass of the world's work which God gives us to do, the secret of success is patient continuance in well-doing. Many people get tired of the monotony of work, and cannot wait. But mothers, who make more and greater successes than any other class of people in the world, succeed so well because they are so patient. The impatient fail.

In the more public work which God gives us to do, the great secret of success is energy and persistence. Fowell Buxton, who had a conspicuous part with Clarkson and Wilberforce in the extinction of slavery in the British Empire, gave us the result of his convictions and experience in the words: "The longer I live the more convinced I am that the great difference between men, the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is just energy and invincible determination, a purpose once fixed and then death or victory. That quality will accomplish anything in this world that can be accomplished, and no talents, no opportunities, will make a two-legged creature a man without it."

But impatience and indolence are not the only causes of failure. Dishonesty, or the suspicion that a man is not wholly to be trusted, accounts for many a failure. Whether honesty is a good policy or not is of small consequence. It is the right principle, and the men who lack it are sure to fail in God's sight, and are likely to fail, sooner or later, in man's.

If we are not to fail we must be clean and pure. On the last Founder's Day at the Mount Hermon Boys' School, founded by the late D. L. Moody, Principal Cutler told this story about him:

"One day he came over here, left his horse and carriage down at the barn, and came up bringing an old lantern that he had found down at the barn—an old, dirty, smudged-up lantern. He brought it with him to the platform and placed it directly on the pulpit. The boys looked at it, wondered, and then laughed. Then he spoke to them right away about the lantern; asked them what it was good for. They laughed again; of course it was good for nothing. And then he asked them what was the matter with it, and, of course, the lantern needed to be cleaned, and it needed to have a light put in it, and then, how he just brought that home to the boys. It could not clean itself. Somebody must put the light in it. He said that a man with a dirty life is good for nothing, useless, and then he asked them if they would not let God take charge of them, and clean them up, and put the light of love in their hearts so that they could be of use."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Mon.—Idle habits (Prov. 10: 4, 5, 26; 20: 4, 13).
Tues.—Faithlessness (Matt. 25: 14-30).
Wed.—Injustice (Psa. 1: 4-6; 11: 4-7).
Thurs.—What is success? (Luke 12: 16-21).
Fri.—True success (I. Tim. 6: 17-19).
Sat.—Lack of perseverance (Heb. 12: 14-17).

*Y. P. Topic Sunday, October 24, 1909.—Why Some Men and Women Do Not Succeed in Life (Josh. 1: 1-9).