

broken; for the sacrament was before His death upon the cross at Calvary. There are numberless instances in the Scriptures where the word "is," in its various forms, can only bear a figurative sense.

Gen. xl. 12: "The three branches *are* three days."

Gen. xlix. 9: "Judah *is* a lion's whelp."

Ps. xviii. 12: "The Lord *is* my rock."

P. lxxxiv. 11: "The Lord God *is* a sun and a shield."

Isaiah xl. 6: "All flesh *is* grass."

St. Luke viii. 2: "The seed *is* the word of God."

St. John x. 9: "I *am* the door."

I. Cor. x. 4: "That rock *was* Christ."

It is plain that when St. Paul said that the rock in the wilderness "was Christ" he did not mean that it was transubstantiated into Christ; but that it was an image of Christ; and as it gave forth water to quench the thirst of Israel, so Christ is the water of life to all who believe in Him.

Here, as elsewhere in the spiritual life, there stands the priority of faith. It is through the hand of faith that the blessing is received, and faith is but another word for trust. It is the childlike confidence of the life in the All-Father. It is the implicit trust of the soul in Christ. It is the heart going forth in living trust in the Saviour. Such faith receives its answer; for Jesus Christ feels the soul with Himself, the true and living bread, and gives again His seals of peace and blessing.

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#### FOR PARISH AND HOME.

### TEACHING MORALS TO CHILDREN.

No doubt many Christian parents whose children attend the public schools regret that more is not being done there in the way of practical religious instruction, or at least of simple teaching in the fundamental principles of morals. Until it shall be possible to obtain more for the children in that way in the schools, the greater responsibility devolves upon parents themselves, and upon all those who are brought in close contact with the young in their homes. It is not enough that children should hear a chapter of the Bible read daily or a prayer offered. To these things they may pay all outward respect, while giving to them very little real attention; and yet there is a tendency in many Christian homes to make family worship do duty for the entire religious and moral

instruction of the children, and especially of those who are out of their mother's arms. It is the experience of the wisest mothers and other guardians of the young that very definite teaching and learning are necessary to the right growth of the soul of the child. Even in France, where the Bible and all religious training have been banished from the schools, this deep necessity has been realized, and perhaps no other country now pays so much attention to training in morals as France. The good results which are yearly reported of this "moral" training form strong additional evidence of the wisdom of giving it a place on the programme of regular instruction, and of the real necessity that exists for teaching every child the simple principles of duty.

An interesting example has been given in the report of a French school inspector of the value of this practical teaching of morals. At an examination for certificates this question was given:

"With some of your friends you go to a fair; you have no money in your pocket, as your parents are poor; suddenly you find a purse with a five-franc piece in it; tell what you would do with it." There were one hundred and eleven candidates, of whom thirty came from secular schools, and eighty-one from confessional schools. Out of the thirty, there were twenty-three who knew that it would be a theft to take the money; the other seven bought toys, etc. Out of the eighty-one from the confessional schools only thirty knew that to keep the money would be stealing; the other fifty-one spent the money without scruple. One child said she took the money home and gave it to her parents, and "this sum was very useful to them; they had three or four good meals, whereas, if it had been restored to the one who lost it, she would probably have squandered it."

This little incident shows that all children require definite, simple instruction in the fundamentals of morality, and that mere religious influence is not enough when it does not deal with the individual child so as to produce individual uprightness of character. Of course, all moral teaching must have its foundation in personal religion, *i. e.*, in the love of God and fear of disobeying His laws. But the example quoted shows that it is possible for religious teaching to fail altogether in inculcating right principles of conduct. The obvious reason is that in such a case the religious teaching has been wrong—either pernicious or entirely deficient. It is against the deficiency of religious teaching

in the home that *we* are called upon to guard. Observation teaches us that parents are liable to err in instructing their children by failing to apply Christian principles to daily conduct in the way of setting up a rule of life, and a standard of rightness in the child's own mind. In other words, there is danger of a failure to teach the practical principles of duty. It is a dangerous thing to trust to the child's imitating the good example set by its parents. Without instruction, it often cannot understand the motives of the actions of others. Let it be clearly understood that that no amount of attention to moral training alone will take the place of that Bible home-teaching which forms so precious a life-link between parent and child; but it should supplement Bible teaching in all homes, and especially in those where the parents are daily engaged in labor which separates them from their children, and makes it difficult for them to watch closely the development of the child-mind.

J. O. M.

#### TRUE GIFTS.

He gives no gifts who gives to me  
Things rich and rare,  
Unless within the gift he give  
Of love some share.

He gives no gift who gives to me  
Silver and gold,  
If but to make his own heart glad,  
Such love is cold.

He gives me gifts most rich and rare  
Who gives to me  
Out of the riches of his heart  
True sympathy.

He gives best gifts who, giving naught  
Of earthly store,  
Gives me his friendship, love, and trust—  
I ask no more.

—Laura Harvey.

#### GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT:

"JESUS."

AMIDST the showers of gifts that are falling like manna of old around our tents at this season, it may be well to stir up our hearts by way of remembrance, lest "The Gift of God" should be even for a little while forgotten.

We rejoice to know that, in the world, the philanthropist is scattering his gifts amongst his poorer brethren; in the family circle, gifts are bestowed to gladden especially the hearts of the little ones; in the church of Christ, there is the desire to "do good unto all men, and especially unto them that are of the household of faith"; and God, in His infinite love and compassion, bestows on us a gift worthy of Him—