

Fire-side Religion.

The home underlies both common-wealth and church, and we cannot look for good citizens or good Christians from any other quarter.

This is the time of the year for the cultivation of family religion. It is the season of long evenings and of in-door occupations.

There is no place like home for training character. But we must anchor our children to it if we would make it a good training-school.

Beloved reader, did your Master assign you your work? Are you a farmer, a merchant, a mechanic, because the Lord gave you that calling?

It is high time for believers in Christ to quit railing their hands against the Lord by ignoring his property right in them.

It is not quarrelling to condemn error, no matter where found. Some of our brethren have become so fastidious that if one dares to write a line in condemnation of any error, or innovation, they write him down at once as a quarrelling brother.

What a grand mistake Paul made there, when he wrote those letters to the church at Corinth. In those letters he deliberately detailed what he had heard of them—that they were guilty of the most revolting crimes.

—LOVE MIGHTIER THAN LOGS.—You may hammer ice on the anvil or lay it in a mortar. What then? It is powdered ice still, except for the little portion melted by heat of percussion.

"Ye Are Not Your Own."

The child of God is the purchase of Christ's blood, and therefore he is not his own. God's property-right in the believer is threefold: he is His by creation, by preservation, and by purchase.

How could it be otherwise? Is it possible for one's character to lose the traces of the old self-life and take on the beauties of "the new man," while he is living as if he belonged to himself?

What would our calling of a slave who chooses his own work, apportion his own labor: labors only to suit himself; then regard the results of his labor as his own?

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Giving for Missions.

"It won't do, Cynthia," said Mr. Amos Parker to his wife, as they reached home, after attending the regular Sabbath morning service.

"Why, you have not given anything to the mission cause this year. Of course, you must not give something like that."

"Why not? Money has been kept back, and once in a while we hear of it. Who can tell how often it happens when we don't hear of it?"

"Will you please tell me of any investment that is perfectly secure against loss? Yet you do not lock up your money for fear of losing it."

"I'll warrant that I give more for missions than Deacon White does, and he is a richer man than I am."

"That does not prove that you have done your whole duty. I suppose a man might get along without paying anything, if he were mean enough."

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Bemoaning the Past.

It is not unusual to meet people who are always bemoaning the past. There are many such who spend more energy in thinking what they ought to have done, and chiding themselves for not having done it, than in thinking what they ought to do, and planning how to do it.

Life is really too short for this sort of thing; there is too much to be achieved in the present and in the future to justify continuous dwelling on unimproved opportunities in the past.

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The Closing of the Year.

A few more days and the year which to some has brought happiness, to others sadness, will be added to those which have passed before it.

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