

Sunday Talks.

BY BARBARA YECHTON.

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." —St. John xiv. 21.

Once upon a time there was a little girl who hated to study French (perhaps some of my little readers can sympathize with her). "The verbs are so horrid," she would declare sometimes. "I know I shall never be able to get them all into my head." One day Elsie's mamma and papa were called suddenly away from home. There was only time for a few hurried words before they left to catch the steamer, but mamma's last remarks made a deep impression on the little girl.

"Dear little daughter," she said, earnestly, "I am obliged to leave you and I cannot say when I shall be back. While I am away I want you to keep right on with those French verbs. I know they seem difficult to you, but I know also that you can do them if you only go at them in earnest. If you love me you will try to accomplish as much as possible while I am away.

"I will try, mamma," promised Elsie, and bravely she kept her word, though it was very hard sometimes to do so. The verbs were so dry and uninteresting that frequently she was tempted to give them up in despair, but love for her mother kept her at them until one day the dear ones unexpectedly came home; and you may imagine how surprised and delighted Elsie's mamma was to find how much her little girl had learned while she was away.

"Now I know that you love me," she said, "by the way in which you have obeyed me while I was absent from you."

It was love that gave little Elsie the perseverance and patience necessary to learn those French verbs, and it is love for Christ that will help you, dear children, to keep His commandments. You know love is a mighty power, greater than any other in the world. Under its influence the weak and timid have been known to become strong and brave, and the fierce and cruel mild and peaceful, and the stern and unforgiving gentle and forgiving.

Jesus Christ loved us with such a great and marvellous love that He came from heaven to earth and suffered shame and sorrow and death, that through Him we might receive salvation, and all He asks in return is that we shall love Him. With a love for Christ comes also a desire to do those things which will please Him, and then, unconsciously perhaps, we begin to keep His commandments.

Thomas Kempis tells us that this divine love "makes everything that is heavy, light; and it bears evenly all that is uneven . . . and makes everything that is bitter, sweet." He also tells us that "the noble love of Jesus impels a man (or boy or girl) to do great things, and stirs him up to be always longing for what is more perfect." And between the words

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me," we seem to hear our Lord saying, "I know it will be hard sometimes, little soldiers, to follow after me; to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things, but nevertheless if ye love me with even half the love with which I have loved

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you, ye shall have strength given you to obey all my commands." Remember, dear boys and girls, that your love is more acceptable to Christ than any other offering you can make Him. And that love will help you to be patient and gentle, and holy and unselfish, it will help you to be brave and honest and yet tender and humble.

This love for Christ brings us a rich reward, too; hear what our Lord says: "And he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." The love of God the Father Almighty thus rests upon all those who love the Son, bringing to them "the peace which passeth all understanding."

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Besides loving us, Christ has promised to "manifest" Himself to those who keep His commandments, that is, He will make His life and love and meaning so clear to us that we shall be strengthened to fight well the battle of life and to become "more than conquerors through Him that loved us."—Churchman.

Russell Sage to Boys.

The boy who is wanted in the business world of to-day, must be educated, says Russell Sage in an admirable article on "The Boy that is Wanted," in the November *Ladies' Home Journal*. If his parents cannot afford to give him a high-school or college education, he must learn to study without the aid of a teacher, in the early morning before business begins, and in the evenings after business hours. It can no longer be truthfully said that an education is out of any one's reach. Our splendid school system, where one can study day by day or in the evening, has put the priceless treasure of an education within the reach of all. The main thing, in the beginning, that I would impress upon boys is one of the great commandments, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." The

boy who respects his father and mother, who treats his sisters and brothers with loving kindness, has laid a good foundation for a successful career. You will do as your parents tell you, and that certainly will be to study. Don't be in a hurry to get away from your school books. The cares and responsibilities of business life will come soon enough. Go to school as long as you can, and, remember, every hour spent in study in your youth will be worth money to you in after life. Read good books—the Bible above all. Make yourself acquainted with history. Study the progress of nations and the careers of men who have made nations great. If you have no library of your own, join one of the numerous associations to be found in all cities, where good, healthful books may be obtained. Study religion, science, statecraft and history. Learn to read intelligently, so that you may turn to practical use in after life the readings of your youth. Be sure you begin right. Do not waste time in reading trashy books.

—To pursue joy is to lose it. The way to get it is to follow steadily the path of duty without thinking of joy, and then, like sleep, it comes most surely unsought, and we "being in the way," the angel of God, bright-haired joy, is sure to meet us.