

sacred books of Buddha, had not Jesus risen from the dead, and demonstrated the immortality of the truths He taught.

The resurrection of Christ is of supreme importance to the Christian because upon it depends our evidence of His divinity, our assurance that His work on Calvary was acceptable to God, our faith in a Person rather than in an ethical code, and our hope for future victory over the grave and death. But the resurrection is the best attested fact of history. Less than two months after it occurred it was openly preached in Jerusalem and no one dared to deny it or call it in question. Every Sunday in its weekly advent forms an unanswerable witness to the fact of its occurrence. And the very existence of Christianity, its growth and progress proves that its root must have been something more than mere legend or fable.

Christ is risen, and Christ lives; and these facts mean new life for all who believe them. Christ lives, to live in us by the Holy Spirit, and to make us, in accordance with His last commission, "witnesses" to the truth of the Gospel. Let us in our interest in the historical fact of His resurrection not lose sight of its deep spiritual importance. It is as we realize the bearing of the truth that He has risen upon our Christian life, and appropriate it to ourselves, that we will know and experience what Paul calls the "power of His resurrection," in dying to sin and living to righteousness.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S O. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR JUNE:—For all teachers of the young in Sunday schools, day schools, and colleges, that they may see their opportunity and responsibility, and that they may help their pupils to a higher plane of Christian living. That the Spirit of God may abide wherever youth are taught.

Doubts and Difficulties.

DAILY READINGS.

First Day.—Peter's doubt.—Matt. xiv. 25-32.

Second Day.—John's doubt.—Matt. xi. 1-6.

Third Day.—Thomas's doubt.—John xx. 24-29.

Fourth Day.—Mary's difficulty.—Mark xvi. 1-6.

Fifth Day.—Gideon's difficulty.—Judg. vi. 11-21.

Sixth Day.—Elijah's difficulty.—1 Kings xix. 9-18.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC.—DOUBTS AND DIFFICULTIES.—Ps. xl. 1-17.

DOCTRINAL TEACHING.—The book that solves difficulties, *Shorter Catechism*, Q. 2, 3. How it should be read, *Shorter Catechism*, Q. 90.

Childhood And Childlikeness.*

BY REV. ADDISON P. FOSTER, D.D.

When the disciples were disputing who should be greatest in the kingdom of heaven and Christ answered by placing a little child among them, he discussed two interblended themes, childhood as honored by Christ and childlikeness or humility as true greatness. The two themes form a twisted cord that makes a single thought.

CHILDLIKENESS THE CONDITION OF ENTERING THE KINGDOM.

We must become as little children to be accepted as Christians. The paramount thought in this comparison is the humility of childhood. The child in its ignorance and helplessness is absolutely dependent. It clings to its parents. It must be given food, protection and guidance, and it knows the fact. It is constantly seeking to be taught. Docility is its marked characteristic. The disposition that leads it to ask questions,—so many in number that they often weary us,—is a hopeful indication of an active mind and of an acquisitiveness that will in time gain wide knowledge. With this humility and consequent docility in the child is an inseparable faith. The child trusts its teachers and its parents. Just such a disposition must the Christian show. He must recognize his own unworthiness and commit himself to Christ for guidance.

HUMILITY ESSENTIAL TO GREATNESS.

It is greater to serve than to be served. The offices of ministering to others, according to Christ's teaching, is the highest dignity and the truest greatness. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It is greater to be a benefactor and to relieve the needs of others than to be a king and receive unearned millions from unwilling subjects. Christ's supreme moment of greatness was on Calvary in giving His life for others. The man

of heroism, living for others in forgetfulness of self, is he whom the world remembers and reveres.

CHILDREN ARE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHRIST.

"Whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me." This was remarkable language. It was said, no doubt, because children are so apt to be trust aside and neglected. There is a necessity, even in these modern days and in Christian lands, for a society for the prevention of cruelty to children. Where Christianity has little hold on men, children are often abused, beaten, left to shift for themselves. Christ introduced a different spirit into the world. He teaches us to reverence childhood. The child is fashioned in the image of God. Its possibilities are amazing. Its future reaches beyond the stars. And, further, Christ accepts our kindnesses to the child as kindnesses to Himself. Why so? The image of God in the child is less marred than it will be by-and-by. There is to-day an unselfishness and purity in the child that are most winsome. Christ is evidently especially interested in children. He showed this interest in taking them in His arms, in blessing them, in His words in their behalf. To commend them to His disciples as His representatives was a tenderness which could not be exceeded.

But the same feeling which Christ shows to the children, He also shows to the childlike. The humble followers of Christ are loved by Him; He recognizes them as His, He expects all to welcome them as His representatives on earth. They are here "in Christ's stead."

CHILDREN ARE NOT TO BE TEMPTED TO SIN.

There is a peculiar enormity, not easily to be estimated, in leading children into sin. This is easily done. They have not yet learned to distinguish good from evil, nor have they the fixed habits and the firmness belonging to mature life. To tempt them is the essence of wickedness. There is no greater woe in God's word than is here pronounced on those who deliberately lead the young astray. Such a woe belongs to him who poisons youth with vile literature, pollutes innocent girlhood, entices boys to drink and gamble, or sows the seeds of doubt and unbelief in the minds of youthful students. The responsibility resting on parents, teachers, and older companions is beyond estimate.

CHILDREN ARE TO BE THE ESPECIAL OBJECT OF OUR CARE.

We are not to despise one of these little ones. There is temptation to do it. "They are only children," is a contemptuous remark often made when the young come to Christ in a revival. "Yes, he can interest children" is sometimes said of a preacher in a like spirit. But the child of to-day is the man of to-morrow. Mold him to-day and he steps forth to-morrow what you have made him. Leave him uninfluenced to-day, and the chances are that you will not influence him in the pride of his manhood to-morrow. To despise a child is to despise humanity; it is to forget the universal law of growth from the seed.

Further than this we are told that the angels of these children are always in the presence of God. This is mysterious language, but it is supposed to teach the doctrine of guardian angels, and that those in charge of little children have special access to God. However this may be, the language plainly teaches that children are under special divine guardianship. And if we are right in supposing that a comparison is run all the way through this passage between the child and the childlike, then the language is equally comforting to the humble Christian. He too, is Christ's little one, and is guarded by the angels. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister to them who are the heirs of salvation?"

It is certain that God desires the salvation of children. It is not His will "that one of these little ones should perish." There is wonderful comfort here. God sends his angels to watch over the children; God plans for their best good; God surrounds them with blessed influences; God rejoices over every one that He finds in the mountains and carries him in His bosom, like a lamb that has been lost but is found. This divine interest in children would God see in us. If we would share in the plan and work of God, we must make special efforts for the children, that we may win them to Christ and secure them salvation.

*A Meditation based on (Matt. xviii. 1-14; Mark ix. 33-37, 42-50.) in the Bible Study Union Course on "The Teaching of Christ."