

1. The religion of the family the most primitive and ideal.

2. Peculiarly approved and blessed of God. Fruits.

3. In our age has suffered decadence. Enquire into causes, and consequences.

4. Restoration—by what means. Restoration of family altar, of parental Bible teaching too much relegated to Sunday-school. The head of the household should be priest at altar.

5. Social and National preservation largely involved in such restoration. Show relation of this to the social perils and evils of to-day. J. S. K.

#### The Religious Shirk.

*Am I my brother's keeper?*—Gen. iv:9.

THE question had a bad original—Cain the murderer.

It expresses incarnate selfishness. An indication of carelessness as to the safety and happiness of others. Man's inhumanity to man.

II. It expresses dishonest selfishness. In the very words "My Brother," it is rebuked human brotherhood, creates mutual responsibility by relationship, contact, association the same nature, blood temptations, perils, sorrows, destiny. Cannot help being, in measure, either his helper or hinderer, his saviour or destroyer.

III. In a professed follower of Christ it shows alienation from the supreme aim of Christian service. Christ came to seek and save the lost. His true followers will share in this purpose. He brought out with clear light the brotherhood of man and our responsibility for each other. Christianity gave birth to the true "humanity." God will answer this question to you at the judgment with awful emphasis. J. S. K.

#### Revival Service.

#### Confession of Sin Without Repentance.

*I have sinned.*—Exod. ix: 27, Numb.

xxii: 34, 1 Sam. xv: 24, Matt. xxvii: 4.

THERE cannot be true repentance for sin without confession. There may be secret regret or voiceless remorse, but repentance must reveal itself openly either by the utterance of the lips or the eloquence of a radical change of heart and life, which is itself a confession. But there may be confession without repentance. Illustration. 1. That of the King of Egypt. A stubborn, rebellious heart still. Forced under the lash of judgment. He at once reveals his impenitance as soon as the plague is removed. The repetition of the rebellion, even to the day of his destruction, intensifies.

2. The false prophet Balaam. An instance of vacillation—confession one day and transgression the next; now eloquent in acknowledging the God of Israel, anon presumptuous and devilish in recommending Balak to seduce the Israelites from their God. His goodness as a morning cloud and early dew.

3. The confession of king Saul. 1 Sam. xv: 24. An illustration of pure selfishness. His confession a makeshift. He sets up pretexts for his sin even while he confesses it. His excuses false. He pretends to have repented, and next thing he is acting in opposite to spirit, *e. g.*, his treatment of Samuel and David.

4. The confession of Judas. Matt. xxvii: 4. Remorse not repentance. Despair not repentance. Did not cry to God for mercy like dying malefactor, but committed suicide.

Conclusion: Illustration of Genuine Confession as the fruit of repentance—the Prodigal Son.

J. S. K.

#### The Resurrection of the Soul.

*And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.* Eph. ii: 1.

1. QUICKENING of Vision or Perception of Spiritual things. Before blind nerve of soul sight dead.

2. Quickening of Affections. They