

## The Upward Look

### Modern Thoughts on Religion

Who doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?—Micah 6:8.

In these days the Christian religion is under test as never before. It is true that Christians are not forced to renounce their beliefs or die at the stake, as was the case some centuries ago. Nevertheless, the test is none the less severe because it is applied in a different form, nor are the results likely to be any the less permanent.

Today Christians are being tested by their forms of life and by their thoughts and actions. The future of the Christian belief is going to depend upon how we, who are professing Christians, stand the test. During the past one hundred years the former generations have passed away, and new generations have arisen. In the interval a miracle has been effected. Our modern system of education has been accomplishing its work. Whereas formerly only the few could read, today it is the few who are unable to read. And as the records of history have been placed within the reach of the average man and as the Bible, and particularly the Gospels, have become free to all who care to read, new conceptions of religion have sprung up and old ones have passed away.

Today men read of how, under the name of religion, men in olden times went out on "holy" wars to exterminate their fellow men. They read of how the Christian church, in its different forms, has been used by men in the past to persecute their fellows, in order that their own special beliefs might be advanced thereby. They see how Christians in the not distant past, who have lacked true love and charity for one another, have split up into sects and denominations over differences that love might have reconciled. This has made men critical. To-day they claim that in many of our churches men who have grown rich by the utilization of unjust methods, are occupying, as men did of old, chief places in the synagogues, and that the Christian church is not slaying the part that it should in bringing God's will to pass on earth. These have been contrasted with the teachings and life of the Christ, and men have found thereby a great lack. Institutions have been yearned, and still yearn, for something higher and better. Thus it is that men are beginning to brush aside independently the differences that have served to separate Christians in days gone by. They are ceasing to ask about this or that special form of belief. Instead they are asking, ever with greater emphasis, "How do you live?" They are asking as never before, the question contained in our text, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

This, then, is really a glorious opportunity. Let us seize it! Let us strive with His help, to show the power of God's dwelling in us, in our lives, that in this way God may be lifted up, and thereby draw all men unto Him. Let us cast aside the non-essentials and hold fast to love and truth and mercy. Let us strive to banish wars and poverty and disease and sin by manifesting the true Christ spirit. This is the new and yet still the old call that is coming home to each of us ever with greater power as the days slip by.—J. H. N.

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### Watching four Words

Keep a watch on your words, my darlings,  
For words are wonderful things;  
They are sweet, like the bees' fresh honey;

Like the bees, they have terrible stings;  
They can bless, like the warm, glad sunshine,

And brighten a lonely life;  
They can cut in the strife of anger,  
Like an open two-edged knife.

Let them pass through the lips unchallenged,

If their errand is true and kind—  
If they come to support the weary,  
To comfort and help the blind,  
If a bitter revengeful spirit

Prompt the words, let them be unsaid;  
For cruelly harsh words weigh heavily  
Or fall on a heart like lead.

Keep them back if they're cold and cruel,  
Under bar, and lock and seal;  
The wounds they may make, my darlings,

Are always slow to heal.  
May peace guard your lives, and ever,

From the time of your early youth,  
May the words that you daily utter  
Be the words of beautiful truth.

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To beat the white of an egg quickly so that it will be stiff, be sure that the basin or plate is perfectly dry. If the process is carried out in the open-air it will be quicker.

\*\*\*

Teacher—"What is a synonym?"  
Donald—"It's a word you can use in place of another when you don't know how to spell the other one."

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