

that is, the sun and moon, and a host of others. Abraham's native city, Ur, was a centre of moon worship. Some of their psalms show great devotional exaltation of spirit and are worthy of a purer faith, for example: "In heaven who is great? Thou alone art great. On earth who is great? Thou only. When thy voice soundeth in heaven, the gods fall prostrate. When thy voice soundeth on earth, the spirits kiss the dust. Who can resist thy words, O God? Who can rival them? Among the gods thy brothers thou

hast no equal. God, my Creator, may he stand by my side. Keep thou the door of my lips. Guard thou my hands, O Lord of light. O Lord, who trusteth in thee do thou benefit his soul." The hope of immortality appears in the following prayer for a soul: "Like a bird may it fly to a lofty place; to the holy hands of its God may it ascend. The man who is departing into glory, may his soul shine as radiant brass. To that man may the Sun give life. Grant him an abode of happiness."

APPLICATION

In sincerity and in truth, v. 14. The late Dr. Dale of Birmingham once said that there were three essentials of worship: first, be real; second, be real; third, be real.

Be Real To worship God with the lips while the heart is far from Him, is to be guilty of the basest mockery. When we pray, God wants the desires of our hearts. When we praise Him in some psalm or hymn, He requires that there should be love and gratitude in our hearts corresponding to the great words we utter.

If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, v. 15. Many a time it has seemed "evil", according to the world's reckoning, "to serve the Lord". For the

Counting the Cost apostle James it meant death by the headsman's ax, for Peter, so the tradition runs, crucifixion head downwards; probably for all the Twelve, a violent death. In the early days of Christianity, serving the Lord brought multitudes of men and women, youths and maidens, to a martyr's end. Even at this day, and in our own land, we must lay our account with the scornful sneer, the biting sarcasm, the clever ridicule of companions, the loss of popularity, perhaps injury to business, if we would serve the Lord. But over against this, there is the joy and satisfaction of living the noblest and best life possible on earth, and the rewards, more glorious than mortal tongue can tell, of the world to come.

Choose you, v. 15. At a religious conference, not long ago, a successful

God First business man said that, as a young man, his ambition had been to build up the greatest business in its

own line, in the country. He soon found out that, if he was to succeed in this, he must give up active work in the church. This he felt he ought not to do, and he therefore contented himself with a small measure of success. He deliberately faced the question whether God or business was to have the first place, and he decided for God, a decision which he never found reason to regret.

This day, v. 15. A thousand voices are telling us that "this day" is one of most momentous importance in the history of our country. New districts of immense area are being opened up in the north and west. Immigrants are flocking to our shores in astonishing numbers. Soon our land will have taken its set for God or evil. Our time will tell tremendously on all future times in Canada. There is need for each one of us to line up on the side of the forces that make for righteousness. No earthly sovereign, but the King of kings, is calling us to enlist in His army, to fight His battles, to drive out, and keep out, of this fair land all that injures men's bodies and souls, and to establish all that makes life noble and true.

As for me, v. 15. The writer spent a Sabbath recently in a small town, where one of the churches has a beautiful set of chimes.

The Message of the Bells In the quiet evening hour, before the evening service, these sweet bells peal out the tune of one gospel tune after another. All over the town sound the message and the invitation of the bells. Like those bells, is a life that is sincerely and resolutely devoted to God. It bears continual witness to