

The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it.—Isa. i. 5, 6.

I said, "I am not going to put it into your hand, but I offer it to you as a gift, and we may stand here for ten years, and the shilling will be no good to you; but that is not my fault, for I am offering it to you."

The woman then turned to the lady who was with me, and said to her, "I don't like to take it from him."

The lady replied, "Is he not offering it to you as a gift?"

She said, "Do you think I may take it from him?"

The lady replied, "I advise you to take it, since he is offering it to you."

The woman now made up her mind to take the shilling, and closing her forefinger and thumb on it, I let go saying, "Have you got it?"

She said, "Yes, I have," and immediately began to thank me for the gift I bestowed in her need.

Now the only reason why this old woman had not the shilling before was because she did not take it when offered; she was waiting instead of accepting.

"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. vi. 23.) God offers eternal life in the person of His Son to sinners by nature dead in sin, and God says, "He that hath the Son hath life." (1 John v. 12.)

One reason why so many have not eternal life is, that they do not believe that God means what He says; they do not accept Christ, as God's gift and thank Him for giving His Son to die for them.

God is the Giver, and He gives freely; the sinner has only to accept Christ as his Saviour, and all the blessings of the Gospel will flow out towards him.

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." (John i. 12.)

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." (John iii. 36.)

Like the old woman waiting instead of taking the shilling, sinners are waiting, and hoping for some great change or feeling, instead of accepting Christ,

trusting Him and believing what He says, and then thanking and praising God for giving them eternal life and pardon for sin through the blood of Jesus.

"Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. xxii. 17.)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John v. 24.) C.

A BIBLE READING ON THE SERVICE OF GOD.

BY THE REV. JOHN RICHARDSON, M.A.

I. It is a service which brings no shame.

It is not a service into which a man is forced (Eph. vi. 6).

It is not a service in which man is humiliated (Rom. vi. 23).

It is not a service in which a man is disappointed (Luke x. 42).

I. It is service under a glorious Master (Acts xvi. 7; 1 Thess. i. 9).

Think of His Majesty (2 Chron. xviii. 18).

Think of His dominions (Col. i. 16.)

Think of His power (Dan. iv. 35.)

III. It is service in a gracious work.

It is doing good (2 Tim. ii. 24, 25).

It is getting good (Rom. xiv. 18).

It is showing good (Titus ii. 7; Pet. ii. 9.)

IV. It is service with a rich reward.

There is a reward in serving (James i. 25).

There is a reward after serving (Rom. ii. 6, 7.)

V. It is a service with an undying interest (Rev. vii. 15.)

There is no night, because they need no rest.

There is no cessation, because there is no fatigue.

There is no interruption, because there is no hindrance.

Remember a plain fact; Matt. xi. 24.

Make a sensible resolve; Josh. xxiv. 15.

Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered.—Jer. viii. 22.