

# The Home Study Quarterly

Rev. E. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor  
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

Vol. XXI. Toronto, October, November, December, 1915 No. 4

## Goodness

*By Rev. James Little, B.A.*

We all like goodness. Our souls have a taste for it just as our bodies have an appetite for enjoyment. God has so made us that we needs must love the highest when we see it.

We may not acknowledge to others our liking for goodness. When we are with our comrades we may even talk as though we thought there were something rather fine and heroic about being wicked. But when we are by ourselves or with our mothers we know that there is nothing which we quite so much desire as just to be good.

But we are never so fond of goodness as when we see it lived. When it becomes flesh and dwells among us in the form of loved teacher or mother or friend, it thrills us into enthusiastic appreciation.

But in the roll of the ages there has been but one who has lived goodness perfectly, where justice was without flaw, where purity was without stain, where service was without spot, where love was as the love of God Himself. The more we study the life of Jesus the more strangely attractive does goodness—His goodness—become. Thousands have been so stirred by it that they have cried out in their enthusiasm :

"Thou seemest human and divine,

The highest, holiest manhood Thou."

And what an attractive goodness it was—so complete and satisfying.

There was absolutely nothing narrow about it. It was narrow enough to exclude sin, it is true, but broad enough to take in all else in life. How many-sided were His interests. He reveled in the world's beauty, His eye open to the glory of the lilies and His ear to the joy of the birds. He had a keen relish

for men's social life, adding to the cheer of their marriages and sitting down with them at their banquets. He was interested in commercial life, speaking with discernment of all kinds of business men, the merchant, the farmer, the shepherd and the pearl-diver. His goodness was not the kind that can be spoiled by contact with the world.

Nor was there anything selfish about His goodness. Our great war has taught us that the finest thing about goodness is its willingness to sacrifice life itself for a great cause. That is why the tears we shed for our fallen soldiers are tears of pride as well as of sorrow. But it was Jesus—the world's master in goodness—who first taught men the greatness of dying for others, of giving one's life a ransom for many.

The goodness of Jesus is what all of us admire. He is what we all want to be. Why not let us frankly accept Him as our Saviour and let Him, as we pass through life's experiences, woo us into likeness to Himself?

Ottawa

## What the Prodigal Lost

*By Rev. W. M. Kannawin, B.D.*

The story of the Prodigal Son found in the fifteenth chapter of Luke is very familiar. What a sad mistake that boy made by not staying at home! "But," it may be said, "did it not come out all right? He came home and was restored to his former position." Is it certain that his going away made no difference to his after life? He had lost many things, some of which he could never regain.

How much money did he spend during those years of wandering? What good he might