

TRIFLING WITH GOD.

Will you accept of Jesus Christ and His salvation? You intend to do this sometime, but what about to-day? God's call is to-day; you say, "By and by." But you can never change the Lord's terms. you can make no covenant with Him till you agree to His requirements and accept His time.

God says to you, "You are a sinner."

"I admit it."

"You need salvation."

"I acknowledge it."

"You must repent of sin."

"I intend to do so."

"You must fly to Christ."

"I purpose to do it."

"Do it now!"

"No, not now; at a more convenient season I will attend to this matter."

Fatal decision! The promise for the future you have no right to make, and may never be able to keep. God asks—He will accept—no pledge for days to come. He deals with you *to-day*. You agree with Him in everything but the point of time—so you say. But He demands your service to-day, you refuse it; you promise service by and by—something that you cannot give, and that He neither desires nor will accept.

And who are *you* that you should oppose your wishes to the will of God? Suppose the Queen should lay her commands upon a subject, and bid him appear at her palace on a certain day, would he say, "By and by?" Would he say, "To-morrow?" No; he would hearken at once. He would count himself honoured by the royal command, and would make haste to render his obedience.

But when the Eternal Majesty of heaven calls, you put His claims aside for your own convenience. You treat Him with contempt; you neglect His invitations; you despise His reproofs; you refuse His calls; you disregard His admonitions; you spurn His love. Oh! trifle not with the Majesty of heaven!—*Gospel Trumpet*.

We are often more ashamed than grieved and humbled for our sins. Our own consciousness of them, and of God's being privy to them, does not pain us near so much as it would to have them known to others. See, therefore, whether what you call your penitence is not more pride than anything else.

HOW IS IT?

On a cold winter evening I made my first call on a rich merchant in New York. As I left his door, and the piercing gale swept in, I said, "What an awful night for the poor!"

He went back, and bringing to me a roll of bank bills, he said, "Please hand these, for me, to the poorest people you know."

After a few days I wrote to him the grateful thanks of the poor whom his bounty had relieved, and added, "How is it that a man so kind to his fellow creatures has always been so unkind to his Saviour as to refuse him his heart?"

The sentence touched him to the core. He sent for me to come and talk with him, and speedily gave himself up to Christ. He has been a most useful Christian ever since.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler*.

MAKING CHILDREN HAPPY.

"I try so hard to make my children happy," said a wearied mother, with a deep sigh, one day in despair at her efforts. "Stop trying," exclaimed a practical friend at her elbow, "and do as a neighbor of mine does." "And how is that?" she asked dolefully. "Why, she simply lets her children grow and develop naturally, only directing their growth properly. She always throws them, as far as practicable upon their own resources, taught them to wait upon themselves, no matter how many servants she had, and to construct their own playthings. When she returns home from an absence they await but one thing—their mother's kiss. Whatever has been bought for them is bestowed when the needed time comes. Nothing exciting is allowed to them at night, and they go to bed and to sleep in a wholesome mental state, that insures restful slumber. They are taught to love Nature, and to feel that there is nothing arrayed so finely as the lily of the field, the bees and the butterflies; that there is nothing so mean as a lie, nor anything so miserable as disobedience; that it is a disgrace to be sick, and that good health, good teeth and good temper comes from plain food, plenty of sleep and being good." In order to thrift, children require a certain amount of "letting alone." Supreme faith in the mother, few toys, no finery, plain food, no drugs and early to bed are the best things for making them happy.