

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE LOST ?

"What must I do to be lost?" "Neglect so great salvation." It is not necessary to do anything. We are lost already. Jesus offers to save us; but if we reject His offer we remain as we were. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Escape is impossible, if we neglect the only means of safety. If a deadly serpent bites you, and you refuse the only remedy, you die. If you are drowning, and will not seize the life-buoy thrown to you, you sink. Neglect is ruin. Jesus alone can save the soul! Neither is there salvation in any other. O, sinner! your damnation is sure if you neglect Jesus. If he that despised Moses' law died without mercy, of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God? Dost thou think God will not execute His threatening, that thou canst escape His piercing eye, or that the rocks will cover thee? Vain hopes! There is no escape but to come to Jesus, and simple neglect is certain perdition! "Because I called, but ye refused! . . . then shall they call, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me, but shall not find Me!" O, sinner! escape this awful threatening! Jesus now stands with open arms. He entreats you to be saved! Come with all your sins and sorrows—come just as you are—come at once! He will in no wise cast you out!—*Newman Hall.*

CHRISTIAN PERFECTION.

"Perfect in Christ Jesus."—Col. i : 28.

Do you not feel in your own soul that perfection is not in you? Does not every day teach you that? Every tear that trickles from your eye weeps imperfection, every sigh which bursts from your heart cries imperfection, every harsh word which proceeds from your lips mutters imperfection. You have too frequently had a view of your own heart, to dream for a moment of any perfection in yourself. But amid this sad consciousness of imperfection, here is a comfort for you—you are perfect in Christ Jesus. In God's sight you are complete in him—you are accepted in the Beloved. But there is a second perfection yet to be realized, which is sure to all the seed. Is it not delightful to look forward to the time when every stain of sin shall be removed from the believer, and he shall be presented faultless before the throne, without spot or wrinkle, or

any such thing? The Church of Christ will be then so pure, that not even the eye of Omniscience will see a spot or blemish in her; so holy and so glorious, that *Hart* did not go beyond the truth when he wrote:

"With my Saviour's garments on
Holy as the Holy One."

Then shall we know and taste and feel the happiness of this vast, but short sentence: "Complete in Christ." Not till then shall we fully comprehend the heights and depths of the salvation of Jesus. Dost not thy heart leap for joy at the thought of it? Black as thou art, thou shalt be white one day; filthy as thou art, thou shalt be clean. Oh, it is a marvelous salvation, this! Christ takes a worm and transforms it into an angel. Christ takes a black and deformed thing and makes it clean and matchless in his glory, peerless in his duty, and fit to be the companion of seraphs. O my soul, stand and admire this blessed truth of perfection in Christ! Oh "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith."—*Spurgeon.*

THE CAPTIVE BIRDS.

Liberty to the captives.—Isa. lxi : 1.

We have somewhere read of a traveller who stood one day beside the cages of some birds that were exposed for sale, ruffled their sunny plumage on the wires, and struggled to be free. A way-worn and sun-browned man, like one returned from foreign lands, looked wistfully and sadly on these captives till tears started in his eyes. Turning round to their owner, he asked the price of one, paid it in strange gold, and, opening the cage, set the prisoner free; and thus he did with captive after captive till every bird was away soaring to the skies and singing on the wings of liberty. The crowd stared, and stood amazed; they thought him mad, till, to the question of their curiosity, he replied: "I was once myself a captive; I know the sweets of liberty."

And so they who have experience of guilt have felt the serpent's bite, the burning poison in their veins; who on the one hand have felt the sting of conscience, and on the other the peace of faith, the joys of hope, the love, the light, the liberty, the life are found in Jesus—they, not excepting heaven's highest angels, are the fittest to preach a Saviour, to plead with man for God or with God for man.—*Guthrie.*