

how strange it is that so often, while we share our sorrows at once with our Saviour, we do not for a long time share our joys with Him! It is not selfishness, it is thoughtlessness. We forget our joys become more rich in the sharing, the more so as our Saviour is the greater. —(The Rev. James C. Coleman, in New York Observer.

GOD'S LOVE FIRST.

By Rev. A. M. Gordon, B.D.

At an evangelistic meeting, one of the workers asked a thoughtful-looking man, "Sir, do you love Jesus?" "I hope so." "But don't you know you love Jesus?" "I know something far better than that." "What! something better than that you love Jesus?" "Yes I know that Jesus loves me."

The man was right. God's love comes first. As the apostle John said long ago, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us"; and, "we love, because He first loved us." The command, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God," asks only for common gratitude. Our love can only be the response to the divine appeal. The statement of the Authorized Version, "We love Him, because He first loved us," is true. But it is equally true, as John actually says, that, in every case, we love, we are capable of loving, because He first loved.

We love the animals; but God loved them first. He had pity on heathen Nineveh, the arch-enemy of Israel; for it contained a vast number of innocent children, "and also much cattle." God doth "take care for oxen." Therefore they were not to be tantalized by being compelled to thresh the grain, without being allowed to eat a mouthful: "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn." Hosea, tenderest of the prophets, likens God's care for His people Israel to the care shown by a considerate teamster for his beasts.

God teaches us the love of friend for friend. He called Abraham to be His friend. Our Lord called His disciples "friends." Between true friends there must be love. Christ went further: "I say unto you, Love your enemies." But He asks us to do only what He already does. While we were "enemies," Christ died for us.

Pass from the wider circle of friends to the narrow circle of the family, and again God's love comes first. "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." "When ye pray, say, Our Father." Sometimes, when God takes the little ones home to Himself, parents vex themselves with the question, "Was God jealous because we loved the children too much?" As if God our Father were a second Juggernaut, and would be angry because parents loved their children even as He Himself does. There cannot be too much love.

"Beloved, let us love; for only thus shall we behold that God who loveth us."

Lethbridge, Alta.

DON'T CHERISH GRIEVANCES.

One of the worst things in the world is a disposition to cherish grievances. The one who does this is sure to be loaded down with trouble. The fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer not only states a condition of salvation, but a condition of happiness in this life. For our own peace we need to forgive and forget. The present should be loaded down neither with trouble of tomorrow nor with the grievances of yesterday.

THE NEW IN THE OLD.

By Rev. W. R. Wood, B.A.

The true student when he hears a familiar thought expressed, will not meet it with the attitude: Yes, I have always known that. There is nothing new in it. His attitude will rather be: Shall I be able to apprehend this a little more clearly than before, and to make it more fully my own? Shall I be able to see what I have seen before, from a different view point, and in a somewhat different light and relationship? May I not hope that there will be something new for me in this which I may call old?

The mind's fullest satisfaction is attained, not in the planting of new seed-thoughts, great and real as that satisfaction may be, but in the growth, through blade and ear, to the full corn, of thoughts, which, in their earlier and more elementary forms, have long been familiar.

One should cultivate the spirit of expectation and of wonder; and ever, anew, as he moves amid the common and familiar possessions of his mental environment, amid the pages of old-world and oft-thumbed volumes, and amid the ordinary lives of ordinary men around him, there will flash into his consciousness new understandings of truth, and in the progress of his life he will find, as a continuous experience, that old things are passing away and all things are becoming new.

A PRAYER.

Thou, O God, art better to us than our own hearts have desired: more faithful than our loyalty, more far-seeing than our own prevision of the wisdom needed for the years. When we are tempted to be impatient with Thy ways, help us by the indwelling of Thy Spirit to rejoice in Thee more than in all Thy gifts. Why should we seek to hurry Thee, who hast such patience with our listlessness? Make it our crown of blessing day by day to do Thy will. Let not Thy denials be a veil to hide Thy face from us. Teach us to find Thy presence in the little blessings, the unregarded gifts, the common experiences of our lives. Enable us to go without complaint and with all joy of childhood's faith and love along the road which Thou hast chosen for us, in the companionship of Him who bore our trials in His life on earth and died to bring us pardon, peace of heart and joyful hope. And so Thy name be praised! Amen.—The Westminster, Philadelphia.

GOD THE PERMANENT FACTOR OF

The passing of the world is a matter of every man's experience. Friends have died, conditions of living have changed, bodily powers have waxed or waned. The world to-day is not the world we knew ten years ago. There are buried hopes and aspirations. There are fashions, thoughts and purposes, which meet us as a man meets travelers face to face upon his journey, and then pass by. The world goes by in ceaseless, picturesque procession; but so also goes the lust of it. Desire shall fail. At last we weary of the show. We tire of the excitements of our life. The zest of pleasure dies. It seemed incredible that we should change, except to grow old, which is the shadow of death upon all merely worldly pleasure. There is no permanence in any condition or relation of our advancing or declining life. It comes up like a flower, but unless it takes hold on some enduring force outside itself it dies like a flower, to make room for other lives as fleeting as itself.—Congregationalist.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.*

Some Bible Hints.

The only real church-going is when the heart goes, and not merely the body (Ps. 26: 8).

The church-goer stands on an even place or on the up-grade; the non-church-goer stands on the down-grade (Ps. 26: 12).

No one can be as good alone as he could be with others to help him; this fact is a strong reason for church-going (Heb. 10: 24).

Forsake the assembling of yourselves together, and how much forsakes you!—help, warnings, comfort, instruction, and many other good things (Heb. 10: 25).

Suggestive Thoughts.

Church-going is a habit, easily formed, and still more easily broken.

Young people should go to church more than their elders, as they are less often sick, and their religious education is in process.

No other institution of the church so emphasizes the duty of church-going as the Christian Endeavor Society.

Christian Endeavor is training the church of the future; and it will be a church-going church.

A Few Illustrations.

How much we should gladly pay if the sermon were a lecture and the church music were a concert!

We cannot support any organization, such as a debating club, or a political party, without attending meetings.

Religion is a business, and needs the conference of partners, or a political party, without attending meetings.

Numbers count for enthusiasm. An army, straggling through a wilderness, broke into loud cheers and rushed forward against the foe as soon as it came out into the plain and saw itself together.

To Think About.

Is church-going a habit with me?

Have I ever persuaded any one to go to church?

Do I look forward to the church with longing?

A Cluster of Quotations.

There ought to be such an atmosphere in every Christian church that a man going there and sitting two hours should take the contagion of heaven, and carry home a fire to kindle the altar whence he came.—Beecher.

If there are truth, purity, sound morals, and right aims anywhere, you may find them in the Christian church.—J. P. Thompson.

The church of Christ, the school of grace,

The Spirit teaching by the Word;

In these our Saviour's steps we trace,

By this His living voice is heard.

—Montgomery.

Thy best type,—desire

Of the sad heart,—the heaven-ascending spire!

Sir E. B. Lytton.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

M, Sept. 7.—Waiting on God. Ps. 52: 1, 2. T, Sept. 8.—Old and young. Ps. 148: 11-13.

W, Sept. 9.—Good listeners. Eccl. 5: 1-3.

T, Sept. 10.—Singing. Ps. 98: 4-6.

F, Sept. 11.—Edifying. 1 Cor. 14: 26-28.

S, Sept. 12.—The ordinances. 1 Cor. 11: 23-26.

Sun., Sept. 13. Topic: Commending our Society. I. By church attendance. Ps. 26: 1-12; Heb. 10: 21-25.

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