

church are necessary to religion, and that these can be practised only apart from secular life. But it is to be remembered that all such exercises do not terminate in themselves. They are but steps in the ladder to heaven, good only as they help us to climb. They are but means to an end; and that end can perhaps be best obtained by him whose life is a busy one, whose avocations bear him daily into contact with his fellows, into the intercourse of society, into the heart of the world. No one can be a thorough proficient at navigation who has never been at sea; no man has become a soldier by studying books on military tactics in his closet; he must in actual service acquire those habits of coolness, courage, discipline, address, rapid combination, without which the most learned in the theory of strategy or engineering will be but as a school-boy soldier after all. In the same way, the man of solitary study may become a most learned theologian, or may train himself into the timid effeminate piety of what is technically called the "religious life." But never in the highest, holiest sense can he become a religious man until he has acquired those habits of daily self-denial, of resistance to temptation, of kindness, gentleness, humility, sympathy, active beneficence, which are to be acquired only in daily contact with mankind. Religion is not a perpetual moping over good books, is not even prayer, praise, holy ordinances; these are necessary to religion—no man can be religious without them. But I repeat, religion is mainly and chiefly the glorifying of God amid the duties and trials of the world, the guiding oar amid the adverse winds and currents of temptation, by the star light of duty, and the compass of divine truth—the bearing us wisely, manfully, courageously for the honour of Christ, our Leader, in the great conflict of life.—*The Rev. John Caird, in a sermon before Queen Victoria.*

The blessings of redemption are gathered into one grand word, "salvation"—heaven's free boon to man. Salvation has three aspects, two of them present, one future. The present are forgiveness and cleansing, the future heaven. The message of Christ to us is, therefore, good news throughout. It is the Gospel of God, the Gospel of Christ, the Gospel of peace, the Gospel of forgiveness, "the Gospel of your salvation."—*Rev. I. E. Page.*