

For we, too, are dominated by sense and the world, and set our affections on the visible and material, and whoever does that is an idolater. The characteristics of our idolatry are those of theirs, for we, too, are ungrateful in rejecting him who has done so much for us; stupid, in preferring the gods whom experience has shown unable to deliver us to Him. We, too, become vain by following vanities, for the worshiper ever assimilates in character and fate to his god. We, too, sell ourselves, and make a bad bargain when we "gain the whole world and lose"—ourselves.—S. S. Times.

The Peace of God.

The child leans on its parent's breast,
Leaves there its cares, and is at rest;
The bird sits singing by his nest,
And tells aloud
His trust in God, and so is blessed
'Neath every cloud.

He has no store, he sows no seed,
Yet sings aloud, and doth not heed;
By flowing stream or grassy mead
He sings to shame
Men who forget, in fear of need,
A Father's name.

The heart that trusts forever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings;
A well of peace within it springs:
Come good or ill,
Whate'er to-day, to-morrow brings,
It is His will.

Isaac Williams.

Prayer

Merciful God and heavenly Father, may thy blessed visitation of us be felt by every heart, so there shall be no exclusion from thy life and love. May the hospitality of thy house offer itself to the poorest and meanest of us, to the man whose heart is a bitter torment to itself. Speak great hospitable words to the prodigal returned, tell him that there is no robe in thine house too good for his wearing. Kiss every little child, bless every one who is weary and ill at ease, deliver from perplexity the soul whose embarrassments are too vexatious, and send light upon lives that have dipped down into great seas of darkness. Lift us all above our fears, enable us to set our feet upon the neck of our spiritual enemies, and may we to-day enter, not only into the serenity, but into the triumph of faith. And this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.—Selection.

When the Bow is Seen.

The bow in the cloud never appears till the sun is more than half way down the sky, and it is highest and brightest when the sun is nearest the horizon. It is when we are getting discouraged and the opportunities for success seem to have passed from us that the divine promise comes: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5. In the high noon of prosperity and proud success we are apt to look upward for the sign of hope and divine protection; but when the hand grows weary and the heart faint, when the eyes grow dim and the vision imperfect, when the keepers of the house tremble and the strong bow themselves, when desire fails and fears are in the way, when trifles become a burden and the voices of music are brought low—then the heart that looks up and sees Jesus at the right hand of God, the once crucified Nazarene, can find what earth can never give.—Selection.

Our Young People

December 18. The "Whatever's."

Topic—"Whatever He would like to have me do." Mat. 6: 10; John 15: 10-19.

Some Bible Hints.

We are likely to forget that God's Kingdom comes only as God's will is done (Mat. 6: 10).

Christ's commandment-keeping, God's love for Christ—what a seemingly impossible standard for us! Yet it is the standard Christ sets up, and therefore it is possible (John 15: 10.)

We are not Christ's friends if we do only a part of what He asks. "Whatsoever" is a hard word, but "friend" is glorious enough to make up (John 15: 14).

The "whatsoever I command" is balanced and made possible by the "whatsoever ye shall ask" (John 15: 16).

Suggestive Thoughts.

Promising to try to do "whatever He would like to have us do" implies that we will try to find out what He would like to have us do.

Does not Christ bid us "do" and not merely "try" to do whatever He commands us? Yes; but His command is only to try; He will carry the trial on to accomplishment if He desires.

There is only one way of giving pleasure to Christ, and that is by doing His will; but it is a way that is found everywhere and always.

Our promise is not to do what the president of our society or any other person would like to have us do, but only what we think Christ would like to have us do.

A Few Illustrations.

To call ourselves Christians, without trying to know and do Christ's will, is like calling ourselves farmers without planting a seed.

Our doing of God's will is not complete until it is our will, just as the river is not complete until it has reached the ocean and become one with it.

Do not hesitate to do any part of God's will because it is not all of God's will. The acorn is not an oak; but plant it.

In mapping meteors four observers stand back to back. So also is the co-operation of our society helpful in watching the heavens for intimations of God's will.

To Think About.

Am I doing whatever Christ would like to have me do, or only the part I like?

Am I studying the Bible to learn His full will?

Am I doing God's will from a sense of duty or desire?

A Cluster of Quotations:

There is no thought that more transforms a man's life than the thought that he can tie his life up to the doings of the will of God.—Spencer.

The motto for every Christian should be "Find out what Jesus Christ wants you to do, and then do it."—Cuyler.

To the child of God there is something exceedingly delightful in approaching a command that seems to be naturally impossible, because he realizes that it is for the Lord to make possible that which He commands.—Webb-People.

Pen Points for Press Committee.

The reporting force of the press committee is the membership of the various societies.

The matter the press committee will put in the papers is; the important happenings in their society, announcements of topics and leaders, the news of church plans and accomplishments, reports of Christian Endeavor mass meetings, news concerning the Christian Endeavor movement everywhere.

The best arrangement is a central press committee of a very few skilled workers, to whom regularly appointed reporters in each society send their news promptly every week.

Write up the news in different ways for the different papers, unless their fields are very different. Effect this by having different members of the committee work up the news, each for his own paper.

Helped by Being Hurt.

Not all our hurts are harmful. Sometimes we should suffer badly if we were not hurt, though it is hard to see this at the time. A skilled physician about to perform a delicate operation on the ear said reassuringly to the patient: "I may hurt you, but I will not injure you." It would have been serious injury to that patient if, to avoid the necessary pain, the physician had withheld his aid. How often the Great Physician speaks to us that same message, if we only would listen! He cuts off the things that would cripple or harm us, and the knife goes deep. Or he may, in his love, take out from this life the one dearest of all on earth to us, and seemingly most needed. Yet he never injures. Injury under his hands is always self-inflicted. Richer life, more abundant health, for every child of his is his only purpose. Why defeat that purpose?—Sunday School Times.

Let us do as the Christ did: Give ourselves for others; deny ourselves that those who need may have a share in the good which has been given to us. Thus by giving we shall know the joy of having, and we shall truly join in the chorus that sounded over Bethlehem on the first Christmas morning. Our deeds of help will have more music in them than cathedral chimes in the tower, or cathedral carols in the choir, and from humble homes and happy hearts will sound the antiphon of the angels' song. Bring holly and mistletoe, hemlock and cedar; festoon the walls with vines and smilax, soft and green and tender; scatter flowers; light tapers on Christmas trees; put greens on Christian graves; fill house and street and earth and heaven with shouts of exultation!—Bishop Vincent.

Daily Readings.

M., Dec. 12.	His will.	John 5: 30.
T., Dec. 13.	Obeys God.	Luke 11: 27, 28.
W., Dec. 14.	Do good to others.	Matt. 23: 34-40.
T., Dec. 15.	Overcome the world.	John 5: 1-5.
F., Dec. 16.	Win others.	Matt. 10: 1-7.
S., Dec. 17.	Be fruitful.	John 15: 1-8.

What a happiness were it if every time you come to His solemn worship some of your strongest sins did receive a new wound, and some of your weakest graces a new strength.—Leighton.