

JOINING THE CHURCH.

Ought I to make a public confession of faith, and join the church? This most important question is, no doubt, agitating the minds of hundreds among the readers of these columns. The first person with whom most of you would discuss this question would be your own pastor. He would probably say to you—yes, my friend, you had better do so, provided that you had already *joined Jesus Christ*. If the Son of God be within your heart then you are spiritually alive; you have experienced the new birth; you are prepared to live the Christian life because He liveth in you. If you only make membership of a church the main thing, if you unite yourself to nothing stronger than a company of frail, fallible fellow-creatures, and expect them to tow you along by the power of their prayers and fellowship, then you have but a poor chance of success in this world, or of heaven in the next.

The first question for you to settle is—Have you been born anew by the Holy Spirit? Have you, by sincere faith, united your heart to the omnipotent Saviour? If that be so, then your public acknowledgement of this fact, by connecting yourself with a Christian church, is the completion of the process of *joining the Lord Jesus*. Heart union first, then open confession. Christ demands both, and when both steps are taken you have become one with Him. Your heart is, by a mysterious but real process, linked to His infinite heart of love. You join your weakness to Christ's strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your unworthiness to His merits, your frailty to His watchful oversight, your poverty to His boundless resource of grace. Your spiritual destiny is bound up with your Lord's; because He lives you shall live also; and you will be kept by the power of God through faith unto full salvation. A glorious conception is this; and if, by God's help, you are making this a reality, then go forward. The sooner the better.
—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

WHAT JESUS IS ABLE TO DO FOR YOU.

Able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.—2 Cor. ix. 8.

Able to succor them that are tempted.—Heb. ii. 18.

Able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence

of His glory with exceeding joy.—Jude xxiv.

Able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.—Heb. vii. 25.

What he has promised, able also to perform.

Able also to make you stand.—Rom. xiv. 4.

Able to keep that which I have committed unto him.—2 Tim. i. 12.

Able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.—Acts xx. 32.

Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.—Ephesians iii. 20.

"I'M AS GOOD AS MY NEIGHBORS."

Quite likely; but that's not enough. Are you as good as God says you ought to be? We read about a man whose name was Saul of Tarsus, who was not only as good as his neighbors, but he was better than any of them. He was beyond his equals in knowledge, and "more exceedingly zealous" of the religion of his fathers. His neighbors looked up to him as the leading man; and the religious world had so much confidence in him that they gave him a "commission," and he had "authority" from the chief priest. Sure this was a fair specimen of one well up in religion, and a man with a good chance, as men say. But when he saw himself in God's mirror, it was then that he came to the conclusion that he was the 'chief of sinners.'

THE DIME NOVEL.

Much has been said concerning the demoralizing effects of the dime novel. It is hardly possible to exaggerate the mischief that is being wrought by this deadly agency. It is one of the most injurious foes that family life has to fear. The following facts speak for themselves: The report of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice for 1885 classifies the crimes of the youth of both sexes (under 21) as follows: Murder, 74; attempted murder, 104; burglary, 179; highway robbery, 84; grand larceny, 72; larceny, 130; forgery, 18; arson, 4; manslaughter, 2; counterfeiting, 5; train wreckers, 3; mail robbery, 4; picking pockets, 8; suicide, 37; attempted suicide, 24. A band of a dozen boys is mentioned—all under ten years of age—who had voted to kill their mothers. One of them proposed to practise upon a servant girl first, but she objected, and the plot was discovered.—*Can. Pres.*