

THE CHRISTIAN

"FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD."—Paul.

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BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT!

How often it has been said and that to by honest hearts, "That there are so many different ways, it is impossible to know the right way" and such naturally conclude, judging from the many conflicting ways, that there is no sure way of life and salvation; that it is impossible to know what is right or true or safe. Many are thus seriously jostled in their faith as to any reality or truth in religion and some are led to deny in toto, the truthfulness of Christianity. We have heard such ones say "that if God gave to the world a revelation, He would certainly reveal Himself, so as to be understood, but the fearful jargon of doctrines show plainly that God is not understood, which is sufficient evidence He has not given us a revealed will." This seems to be quite plausible, admitting, as we must, that God is both able and willing to reveal His will to man unmistakably clear, so that man may know the truth. The conclusion would be true, if the promise was not false. In the first place, the different opinions and ideas that are so prevalent do not exist in the Bible, but in other books that are not of God. In the second place, the truth of God, the doctrine of Christ through which man receives his life and salvation is believed by all, and about which there is no dispute. Hence all believers of the Bible are united on the *revealed* way and plan of salvation. Notice, please, that we are not saying there are no divisions and disputes about what the Bible is said to teach, but that there is taught in the Bible the plan of salvation; that is not in dispute, never has been, and probably never will be. This places the man who would be saved out of the reach of a possible doubt so that he may be *sure* he is right.

If we can find one person whose salvation or conversion is admitted by all believers, about which there is not a doubt or a dissenting voice, then it must be admitted the way or plan of salvation is not in doubt. Let us turn now to the eighth chapter of Acts and read carefully the conversion of the Eunuch. Here we find a genuine conversion a man who was in sin, and hence unsaved. He turns to God and becomes a happy man and goes on his way rejoicing. Who in the religious world ever thought that the Eunuch was not truly converted, and therefore not safe and sure as far as his acceptance and forgiveness was concerned? Here is a man that all admit was a Christian. Is it not true, therefore, that the *way* in which he came to Christ is also universally admitted, and hence out of the arena of doubt. All can see that if the Eunuch's conversion is beyond dispute, that what he did to be saved must also be beyond dispute; the effect must partake of the nature of the cause. Now comes the fact that to be sure and safe and beyond a dispute, as to our conversion, is to do as the Eunuch did. His conversion being admitted genuine, so must ours be, if we do as he did. We need not record the

story of his conversion. We could not make it any plainer than it is in the good Book. How he believed in Christ the Son of the living God, by or through the preaching of the Evangelist Phillip and was baptized into Christ and went on his way rejoicing. Some one, perhaps, may say that his baptism is in dispute. We think not. The record says he was baptized and all standard authorities say that baptism is to immerse. Not a person known to the writer seen or heard of, was ever in doubt about his baptism when immersed. All the doubts belong to something else that is believed to be baptism. We have known persons who had been, as they supposed, baptized, but becoming dissatisfied, were afterwards immersed, but none are ever dissatisfied with immersion as far as the act is concerned. Let any who may think there is no safe and undisputed way to salvation as to the conversion of the sinner, make a special note of what we have said, and if not satisfied with the correctness of the position, let him test it by asking any professor of any denomination whether the man's conversion is genuine who honestly and heartily believes in Christ as the Son of God, repents of his sins and is immersed into Christ; there is no risk in saying he will find none who doubt his conversion. He may find many who honestly believe that there are other ways to be saved. But this does not invalidate the fact that the way of life and salvation as taught in the Bible is safe and sure and beyond a question. The same is true of our final salvation in heaven. The way all along from earth to the vaulted skies is plain and delightful, beyond a doubt, and as certain and true as its heavenly author. I am more than anxious that precious souls who are unsaved should know how plain and sure and how undisputed God has made the way of salvation. I feel-assured that many would accept the claims of Christ who are now kept in darkness by the supposed objections and differences, could they see this safe and universally admitted way. Our heavenly Father knew our natures. He was able to meet their demands. He therefore gave us a religion suited to our condition and made it so plain and easy that none need be unsaved. He has made no demand but what is in perfect keeping with our best and highest interest. To believe what is true cannot be unpleasant and to do what is right is always a delight. To trust in one who cannot lie, cannot be a hardship to an honest heart. The way of true religion is the path of wisdom. Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace. "The way to heaven is heavenly and the road to bliss is bliss." Christianity is true manhood to keep step with the voice of God, is fulfilling the true wants of man. To be right with ourselves we must be right with God. To lose the salvation offered in the Gospel is the loss of manhood. No one need look for success outside the principles of Christianity. Joseph Cook has lately said "that no political ideas will ever succeed on any scale, broad or narrow, without exalted personal character;" this is as true of the individual as the nation. True character is true religion, without which there is no true

success. Don't neglect the true and safe way. Be sure you are right and then go ahead.

H. MURRAY.

READING.

It is frequently said that by far too little reading is done, and the statement may be, and probably is, true. But if the time spent in the perusal of useless and pernicious books, were given to those of an ennobling and instructive character, the remark would not be heard so often, because the fact would be less obvious. It is much lamented, and deservedly so, by those having the well being of humanity at heart, that the worst kinds of books are the most popular; and those the least that are best. May the reverse soon be the case.

There is one book in particular that is too much neglected, viz.: the Bible. There are but few houses in which there is not a copy; there are many in which it is in a dark corner, or on a high shelf, and, judging from the amount of dust on it, we at once arrive at the conclusion that it is seldom touched, less often read, and studied less. These things should not be so. The grand opportunity, the inestimable privilege of growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ is offered to all. If we were deprived of the Word of God, and all the books that have been written since the beginning of time, many of them unquestionably good, could not supply its place. There was a time when the Scriptures were not so extensively circulated as they are at present. Until the art of printing was invented, the Bible was written on parchment, by man's hand, and thus preserved. On account of the enormous amount of time and labor required in writing each *one* copy, it is evident to all, that the number of copies in existence must have been exceedingly small, and the price that would have to be paid to obtain one, correspondingly large. The only way for a very large majority of the people to become acquainted with the Bible, was to meet in one place and hear it read; the attention they would require to give before they could become comparatively familiar with the Word, is easier imagined than described. How great are *our* privileges; how little *we* use them.

As already said, the Bible is too much neglected. Not a few ever read it; a great many read it too carelessly. Very little benefit accrues from reading in the casual, listless way secular newspapers are read; and a large number, from pursuing this course, find Bible reading very uninteresting; whereas if they did, as do the true, earnest student of the Bible, read attentively and prayerfully, they would see its sublimity and value. The fault lies in themselves, not in the Bible; and if they read slowly, dwelling on words and phrases, on clauses and sentences, and try zealously to understand what they read, the result will be most gratifying, for the Book that has hitherto appeared uninteresting and uninteresting, will prove the reverse. Of course more time will be required by