

II. RECONCILED.

We have peace with God. v. 1.

"Reconciled to himself." 2 Cor. 5. 18.

"Reconcile all things." Col. 1. 20.

III. ACCEPTED.

Access . . . unto this grace. v. 2.

"Access with confidence." Eph. 3. 12.

"Accepted in the beloved." Eph. 1. 6.

IV. GLADDERED.

Rejoice in hope. v. 2.

"In thy presence . . . joy." Psalm 16. 11.

"Believing, ye rejoice." 1 Peter 1. 8.

V. STRENGTHENED.

We glory in tribulations. v. 3, 4.

"Yieldeth the . . . fruit." Heb. 12. 11.

"More precious than of gold." 1 Peter 1. 7.

VI. ENDOWED.

The Holy Ghost . . . given. v. 5.

"Earnest of the Spirit." 2 Cor. 1. 22.

"Spirit of his Son." Gal. 4. 6.

VII. SAVED.

Saved from wrath. v. 9.

"Delivered us from . . . wrath." 1 Thess. 1. 10.

"Appear with him in glory." Col. 3. 4.

Thoughts for Young People.

Thoughts on Salvation through Christ.

1. Salvation through Christ requires faith on our part as its condition. (Verse 1.)

2. Salvation brings enemies into a relation of peace with God as its result. (Verse 1.)

3. Salvation gives to us the privilege of entering and abiding in the favor of God. (Verse 2.)

4. Salvation extends beyond the present, and has a glory hereafter. (Verse 2.)

5. Salvation does not exempt us from the trials and sorrows of life, but gives us insight into their purpose. (Verse 3.)

6. Salvation involves the discipline and development of our character here, for heaven hereafter. (Verses 3, 4.)

7. Salvation gives us the assurance of God's love by the presence of his Spirit. (Verse 5.)

8. Salvation comes to us through Christ, when it could come from no other source. (Verse 6.)

9. Salvation begun in us on earth is a ground of confidence that it will be completed for us in heaven. (Verse 10.)

Lesson Word-Pictures.

His name is "Live-by-Faith," and it is a beautiful life he leads. He has come by faith into the ready, open, large, and ever-abiding presence of God in Christ, and his trust is the beautiful doorway into this life. In the morning he has this conscious abiding with the Saviour, feeling his touch, hearing his voice, seeing his face, and then,

taking his hand, he goes out. Men see only one; he is conscious of the presence of another.

Into this grace he has been admitted, and in hope is looking forward to that time when this presence shall become visible. O, day to be desired and longed for, when he shall see the King in his beauty, when he shall stand face to face with his Lord. But even now he has such foreglances of the King that he walks in a present heaven.

Not that Live-by-Faith is without his trials. Tribulation may follow tribulation. It is the vessel's hull, though, that feels the blow and the jar of the billows, while above is the calm confidence of the mariner knowing his vessel will weather the storm. Yes, in tribulation it would sometimes seem that he rejoiced, could almost exult, over it. What endurance his faith shows in these trials! How his vessel holds to its course, though tempests try to blow it off! This endurance gives assurance. The tempest is a test. To-day's success is a pledge of to-morrow's victory. Hope is born of these struggles—hope, that comes upon the deck, laughs at the spray flying in its face, points out with eagerness the harbor ahead, and bids Live-by-Faith throw overboard his doubts and fears, take a fresh hold on God, and push ahead.

O, what things in the sky, grand, far-reaching, ever-enduring, hope takes hold of! It is the expectation of harbor after the voyage, of heaven after earth, of glory after suffering.

Who can be ashamed of such a hope? Certainly Live-by-Faith never yet was ashamed of such a glorious hope.

"I have it," he says, "because the love of God is shed abroad in my heart."

The love of God!

How exultingly Live-by-Faith recalls its manifestations! He thinks of the life of Jesus upon the earth, God's love taking human shape, seen in a human face, breathed out in a human voice, reaching out in a human hand. Yes, the face of love bending over beds of sickness, the hand of love feeling after prodigals, and bringing them home to the Father's house and the Father's bosom. And then tears swim in the eyes of Live-by-Faith as he sees the love of God on its way to a cross of suffering. "And for enemies, too!" he sobs; "for me, even!" Yes, the tears rain faster as he traces out the sad picture of a soul astray, amid the storm, on the wild mountain, the night shutting down; but look! There is the swift advance of the strong Shepherd through the shadows, and the lost one is borne away to the fold of a Saviour's love. But who is the rescued one? Has not Live-by-Faith seen him before?

"It was my soul he saved," cried Live-by-Faith.

And O, with what emotion he declares this!

What joy, too, in the measureless love of God! Tears are wiped away. The soul breaks into song.