

A Rule for Happiness.

Make a rule, and pray to God to help you to keep it, never, if possible, to lie down at night without being able to say, "I have made one humble being at least a little wiser or a little better this day." You will find it easier than you think, and pleasanter. Easier, because if you wish to do God's work God will surely find you work to do; and pleasanter, because in return for the little trouble it may cost you or the little choking of foolish, vulgar pride it may cost you, you will have a peace of mind, a quiet of temper, a cheerfulness and hopefulness about yourself and all around you, such as you never felt before; and, over and above that, if you look for a reward in the life to come, recollect this: What we have to hope for in the life to come is to enter into the joy of our Lord. And how did he fulfill that joy by humbling himself and taking the form of a slave and coming, not to be ministered to, but to minister and give his whole life, even unto the death upon the cross, a ransom for many. Be sure that unless you take up his cross you will never share his crown; be sure that unless you follow in his footsteps you will never reach the place where he is. If you wish to enter into the joy of our Lord, be sure that his joy is now, as it was in the Judea of old, over every sinner that repenteth, every mourner that is comforted, every hungry mouth that is fed, every poor soul, sick or in prison, who is visited.—Charles Kingsley.

The Love of Jesus.

What is it in Jesus that so draws men, that wins their allegiance away from every other master, that makes them willing to leave all for his sake and follow him through peril and sacrifice, even to death? Is it his wonderful teaching? "Never man spake like this man." Is it his power as revealed in his miracles? Is it his sinlessness? The most malignant scrutiny could find no fault in him. Is it the perfect beauty of his character? None nor all of these will account for the wonderful attraction of Jesus. Love is the secret. He came into the world to reveal the love of God—he was the love of God in human flesh. His life was all love. Men saw it in his face and heard it in his voice and felt it in his touch. This was the great fact which his disciples felt in his life. His friendship was unlike any friendship they had ever seen before, or even dreamed of. It was this that drew them to him and made them love him so deeply—so tenderly.

Nothing but love will kindle love. Power will not do it. Gifts will not do it. Men will take your gifts and then repay you with hatred. But love begets love; heart responds to heart. Jesus loved.

Daily Readings.

Mon., Oct. 19—It pleases God. Heb. 13:15, 16
 Tues., Oct. 20—Follows Christ's example. 11 Cor. 8:7-9.
 Wed., Oct. 21—An Old Testament vow. Gen. 28:20-22.
 Thurs., Oct. 22—Characteristic of saints. Isa. 32:1-8.
 Fri., Oct. 23—A part of God's service. Ex. 35:21-29.
 Sat., Oct. 24—According to ability. Dent. 16:9
 Sun., Oct. 25—Topic—What the Bible teaches about giving. 11 Cor. 9:6-11; 8:23-24.

Help bestowed on the worthy will bear richer fruit than ever grew on the tree of selfish indulgence.

Our Young People

Sun., Oct. 25. Topic—What the Bible Teaches about Giving.

11, Cor. 9:9-11; 8:23, 24. (Missions.)

Grace, Not Nature.

God taught his people in the early days to give systematically. The Hebrew must pay his tithes, too, not with his second rate possessions, but with his best. The firstling of his flock, the creature without blemish, must be given to the Lord. To give when they felt like it was not what the Hebrews were taught. To give, whether they felt like it or not, and to give a fixed proportion, was the teaching they received.

If we would have the grace of giving, we must remember that it is a grace, not a natural impulse. We must not be discouraged if giving goes against the grain. The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, but he appreciates the gift, too, that is preceded by a struggle of will with unwillingness. "I honor Thomas highly," said an old friend once of a large giver to a mission cause, "because closeness is in the blood, and he naturally hates to give a dollar to anything, yet he overcomes and gives more every year." Grace had to overcome nature, in Thomas's case; but it conquered, nevertheless.

A Sure Return.

To hear some Christians talk, one would think that the most hopeless investment of money possible is to give it to God. Yet the promise of the Bible, and the experience of those who have trusted these promises, agree as to the sure return of such gifts by larger ones.

God does not always give money for money. He has greater gifts than gold, and He does not always think it best for us to have more worldly goods. But a greater gift than ours he will send us, as

Those who have given most to Christ, have received most. There have been men who have given, not only all their money, but all their time and all their powers, to God. Such men have never complained of lack of reward from God. It is only the man who gives little, and looks for material return, who grumbles. He is not a true giver, and so God does not trust him as such. When we begin to give unselfishly and loyally, God's gifts begin to flow in upon our souls

An Essential Part.

No true disciple was ever yet without the grace of giving. If the "pocket nerve" is paralyzed, a man's religion is never healthy or vigorous, God is the eternal Giver, and to be godly is to be like God. The Christian who cares nothing for missions, and buttons up his pockets tight, is a counterfeit, not a real disciple.

Salvation is free. But faith without works is dead. The man who clutches at salvation as a free gift from God, and then refuses to give anything to anybody, is a pitifully mean person. Giving is one of the essential laws of godly living. Withholding from God shrivels the soul.

Since God has given us a banner he means that we shall display it. Many use their religion as they do their flag; fling it out on special occasions and fold it away the rest of the time. God's banner is for all times and all occasions.—United Presbyterian.

A Thanksgiving Song.

For sowing and reaping, for cold and for heat,
 For sweets of the flowers, and gold of the wheat
 For the ships in the harbors, for sails on the sea,
 O Father in heaven, our songs rise to thee.

For parents who care for us day by day,
 For sisters and brothers, for work and for play,
 For dear little babies, so helpless and fair,
 O Father we send thee our praise and our prayer.

For teachers who guide us so patiently on,
 For frolics with mates when our lessons are done,
 For shelter and clothing, for every day's food,
 We bless thee, our Father, the Giver of good.

For peace and for plenty, for freedom, for rest,
 For joy in the land from East to the West,
 For the dear old flag, with its red, white and blue,
 We thank thee from hearts that are honest and true.

For waking and sleeping, for blessings to be,
 We children would offer our praises to thee;
 For God is our Father, and bends from above
 To keep the round world in the smile of his love.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

The candidates for pupils in Scotland, says the "Westminster Gazette," are steadily on the decline. At the Established Church Assembly it was reported that the number of students in the four theological halls has diminished from 246 in 1888 to 97 in 1892, and as this number includes the students of the three years over which the theological curriculum extends, it means that there are only thirty-three to supply vacancies which, it is said, average from forty four to fifty five each year. It looks as if soon there will be many kirks without ministers.

The Bible, translated into the language of Tibet, is now being carried even into that forbidden land, in advance of foreign commerce and travel! The Russian Government, which hitherto intolerant of missionaries, gives the Bible itself free course among the people. It is admitted free of duty, and has often been transported free of charge.

Trust in God, as Moses did, let the way be ever so dark, and it shall come to pass that your life at last shall surpass even your longing. Not, it may be, in the line of that longing; that shall be as it pleaseth God; but the glory is as sure as the grace, and the most ancient heavens are not more sure than that.—Robert Collyer.

In heaven everybody will be beautiful. For, as the righteous soul is naturally beautiful, as the spiritual body is but the visibility of the soul... and as happiness beautifies all that it penetrates or even touches, ugliness will have no more place in the universe, and will disappear with grief, sin, and death.—Alexander Maclaren, D.D.

La Revue, a French journal has been quoted as saying that the average annual secession of Roman Catholic priests in France is two hundred. Many more, it is declared, would leave if they knew what to do for a livelihood. A serious disruption in the French church is looked for.

I have been helped by praying for others; for by making an errand to God for them, I have gotten something for myself.—Samuel Rutherford.