

It is to be feared that, with many of our people, the Sabbath is, on this account, only half kept holy. Practically, the Sabbath ends at 3 or 4 o'clock. To check this, let all consider that, between 6 and 9 o'clock on Sabbath evening, they ought to be preparing for, and worshipping in the sanctuary. Let them seize every opportunity of attending evening service when it is held. At least, let none say that they do not approve of evening sermons, till they have thought over the matter a little more carefully.

R. M. C.

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Dennis and the Priest.

"GOOD-MORNING, Dennis."

"Good-morning, your reverence."

"What is this they say of you, Dennis? I am told you have been to hear the preachers."

"You have been told the truth, sir," answered Dennis.

"And how could you dare to listen to heretics?"

"God is not a heretic," said Dennis, "and it is the word of God, the Bible, that they read."

"Aye, the Bible explained by a minister."

"The Bible explained by itself," said Dennis; "when it is allowed to speak, it explains itself without assistance from any other quarter; and in the very act of reading it, we allow it to speak."

"But, after all, the minister preaches; and he insists on your believing what he preaches."

"The preacher," replied Dennis, "tells us, when we go home, to take the Bible and examine whether it contradicts or confirms what he has said from the pulpit."

"But don't you see that this is a mere sham; and that you, the common people, cannot examine the holy Scriptures so as to judge whether they confirm or contradict what the preacher says?"

"At that rate," said Dennis, "St. Luke made fools of the common people; for the preacher pointed out to us a passage in the Bible which mentions that the Bereans compared the preaching of the apostle Paul with the holy Scriptures; and more than that, St. Luke commends them for doing so." Acts 17: 11.

"Admirable! master Dennis; you are quite a doctor in divinity. You know as much as a whole synod of bishops. Your decisions will be equal to those of a general council."

"I make no pretensions to judge for other persons," replied Dennis, "but take the liberty of judging for myself. God inspired the Bible, and I read His inspired word."

"But you are not able to understand it."

"The best proof that I can, is, that I really do understand it," said Dennis. "Why should I not understand the Bible, which has God for its author? Cannot God express what He means as well as a mere mortal?"

Besides, the Bible, speaking of itself, says that it is 'a light.' Psalm 119: 105.

"Dennis, you are obstinate and conceited."

"If he is an obstinate man who never changes his opinion," said Dennis, "it is you who are obstinate; but as for me, I found myself in a bad road and changed for a better, that is all. I have never pretended to be infallible."

"You are very conceited to think that you know so much more than others."

"Others," replied Dennis, "are not very humble in thinking that they know more than God; but it is to God and not to my fellow-men that I hold myself responsible."

"I must tell you that if you go on reasoning in this way, I shall not admit you to confession."

"I confess myself," replied Dennis.

"Not to me, at all events."

"No; but to God."

"To God?"

"Yes," said Dennis, "to God, who declares in the Bible that 'if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.' 1 John 1: 9.

"The Church will not marry you."

"I will get married elsewhere."

"The Church will not bury you."

"I shall not trouble myself about my dead body, if I save my soul."

"You will be excommunicated."

"No matter, if I am received by God."

"No prayers shall be offered for you."

"I shall pray for myself."

"No masses will be said for you to release you from purgatory."

"They would be of no use," said Dennis, "for I reckon on going to paradise."

"To paradise, do you?"

"Yes; to paradise."

"How do you know that?"

"Why," said Dennis, "I read in the Bible that one of the thieves who were crucified with Jesus, after having confessed his sins to Jesus Christ, who is God, said to him, 'Lord, remember me.' 'And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, to-day shalt thou be with me in paradise.' Luke 23: 41-43. If, then, a penitent malefactor could be pardoned by believing on Jesus Christ, I cannot see why, if I repent and trust in the same Saviour, I may not obtain salvation; and the proof that my hope is well-founded lies in what I have read in the same blessed book, that 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3: 16. If I believe, I shall be saved."

"But while you are waiting to go to paradise, you must live in this world, and I tell you plainly, that you will lose your livelihood by joining these heretics. No one will have anything to do with you."

"I trust in Him who gives us 'day by day our daily bread,' said Dennis, "and if God