

to survive him. Reader? is your whole soul in your religion? Then your pastor will have at least *one member* that he will not fear to lean on; and when you die, your monument will not blush to wear the noble inscription, "ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.—T. L. Cuyler.

JOSHUA'S RESOLVE.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Will not you imitate this example? The venerable man who made this resolve, was one in high station; no less than the chief ruler of Israel. He had long experience that the service of the Lord was good. He urged the people to choose whom they would serve, but he assured them that his mind was made up, even if he should be alone: "We will serve the Lord." Will not you also serve the Lord?

When? "This day." What other time can you choose? Yesterday was, but is not. To-morrow may be, and yet it may not be for you. This day is your time to choose, as it was the time for Israel.

But why should you serve the Lord? He is Jehovah, the maker of heaven and earth, possessed of all goodness, excellence and glory; worthy of all love, obedience, confidence, and praise. Of him we receive all things richly to enjoy. And above all things he is our Redeemer, "who loved us, and gave himself for us," that he might deliver us from all evil, from all enemies, and from the wrath of God. And finally, he assures us that his servants shall be preserved unto life eternal, and for ever enjoy and glorify him. On the contrary, if we forsake him he will forsake us, and give us over to all evil and final ruin with his enemies, who can neither deliver nor help themselves nor us. "Choose you, therefore, this day, whom ye will serve."

But what is it to serve the Lord? "To love him with all the heart," to obey, trust, and honour him. This is the plain, simple truth. This God requires.

Is there not some difficulty in the case?—Joshua said to Israel, when they readily promised: "Ye cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God." He knew how men are more ready to promise than to perform, and therefore stayed them in their eagerness, that they might ponder well their undertaking. So every one should "count the cost," and engage in the work with deliberation, and beware of the difficulties. Not difficulties in the nature of his service, but in our unholiness, our associations, and the course of this world. By the grace of God and the help of his Spirit, we may engage to serve God and be sure of

success. His loving-kindness is rich, free, and abundant; his Spirit working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight.

Set up the stone, then, or some monument, as a witness that you have chosen the Lord to be your God, and that you are bound unto him in an everlasting covenant. Write it in a book, that you may read it in time to come, and keep it always in mind. Thus will the Lord be your God, and you will be his people.—*American Messenger.*

SUDDEN DEATH.

Reader! did you ever see a friend drop instantly from time into eternity? Four years since, I saw the body of a friend whom I loved deposited in the grave. It was that of a merchant, who retired to rest at a late hour and was found dead in his bed in the morning. Beside that grave stood a young man in the vigour of health. The next day that young man while at work suddenly stopped, and in five minutes he was in eternity. The writer was commissioned to carry the sad intelligence to his wife. Never will he forget the scene that followed. It was nearly night; the sun was just setting on a lovely summer evening. The wife sat watching at her door her husband's return. I tried to prepare her for the bereavement of which she was yet ignorant, but when it was made known a long time passed before a soothing word of consolation could be heard. Within two months from that day that young widow was called into eternity almost as suddenly as her husband. And why may not the reader be called as suddenly? Are you prepared for such a result?—is your treasure laid up in heaven? Have you a hope, a good hope, a hope that will be as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast, in a dying hour? If your hope is one that purifies the soul, yet have you done all for Christ and his cause that you wish to do?—Have you done all you desire to do for the salvation of your friends who are on the road to death?