

of all believers who love the appearing of their Lord. This is the consummating satisfaction of a good life.

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Make this topic practical as well as doctrinal. To this end arrange for four papers or talks: (1) the satisfaction of a good life in the home. (2) In business. (3) In social life. (4) In politics. These should not be longer than five minutes each. Interpose appropriate music, and impress the truths and principles presented in the papers.

OCT. 8.—"THE ELECT PEOPLE AND THEIR LIFE."

(APOSTOLIC STUDY, STUDY 28.)

1 Peter 2, 1-10; 4, 7-11.

What is meant by elect people? Is it a certain number of the human race chosen out of a multitude to be saved without relation to their belief or conduct? By no means. Elect people in the Bible sense are those who are chosen of God to be saved because they choose Christ as the Saviour. They elect themselves to eternal life by selecting the Redeemer as the giver of eternal life. In our first topic Scripture the belief and behaviour of the elect people are compared to the rites and ceremonies of the old temple. See how the apostle works it out!

The Spiritual House.—The figures of this paragraph are precisely adapted to those who were familiar with the associations of Judaism, and more especially with the material tabernacle and the temple, and the outward religious system associated with them. The material house of Judaism is contrasted with the spiritual house of Christianity. It is the contrast that is so fully elaborated in the epistle to the Hebrews. That was a material house, in which earthly men fulfilled prescribed temporal duties, and carried out a ritual and ceremonial system. This is a living spiritual house, of living spiritual men, who offer in it living spiritual sacrifices. And yet, Paul recognizes that there was a spiritual within that old material. The spiritual could now be more fully apprehended, and the old material building may now fade away, or be removed, as scaffolding is removed, when the temple is complete. Or, using another figure, Paul says: The people of Israel were a separated, consecrated people; the whole people were a "holy priesthood," devoted to the service of God. This fact was represented, and so kept ever before their minds by the separation of one tribe entirely to the priestly service. Peter sees that truth concerning Israel carried over into Christianity and spiritually realized. The church wants no delegation of any portion of itself for priesthood, because, spiritually, every member is a priest, and the entire church makes up the "holy priesthood." Fixing attention on the Spiritual House, notice three things, as one writer points out:

1. Its foundation.—It is a living man—that is, a spiritual man. "Unto whom coming, a living stone." It is the spiritual, divine man, the Lord Jesus Christ. "Other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, even Christ Jesus." The figure of that foundation stone is doubtless taken from the corner of the temple area which was built up from the valley with gigantic masonry. The figure of a foundation is somewhat difficult for us to apprehend, because our buildings do not in any sense rest upon a single stone. The right thought may come to us through the schools of philosophy, systems of theology or other religions. We speak of Socrates as the founder or founda-

tion of the Socratic school; of Calvin as the founder or foundation of the Calvinistic system of theology; of Mohammed as the founder or foundation of the Mohammedan religion. In each case we mean that on one man's thoughts, doings and sufferings of the Lord Jesus; and it or truth which has been reared. Christianity is the house of truth and life reared upon the thoughts, doings, teachings and sufferings of the Lord Jesus; and it is a spiritual house, because the spiritual is the range of Christ. What He thought, did, felt, taught, were the spiritual things on which the spiritual house was reared.

2. The Stones of the Building. Living men—that is, spiritual men. Lying in the sense in which Christ is spoken of as living. Connected with the idea of being begotten again, born again, quickened with the new, the spiritual life. John is the apostle of this new life. He "conceives of religion as consisting in the immediate personal relation of the soul to God or to Christ. It begins with an impartation from God. To be borne of God means to receive from Him a communication of spiritual life, whereby the soul is more and more transformed into Christ-likeness." The stones of the building must be of the same nature as the foundation. Of material stones build the old Temple on a foundation of stone from the quarry. Of spiritual stones—men alive unto God—build the spiritual temple on a foundation of the spiritual stone, the man alive unto God, the spiritual man Christ Jesus. But another idea is suggested by the term "lively" or "living." A living thing is a moving, acting thing, and the stones of the spiritual house are living men in their activity. It is a difficult association for us, but Eastern minds delight in involved and mixed metaphors. It may at least suggest to us that we give ourselves to Christ as living ones—"living sacrifices"—those who serve.

3. The service within the building. "To offer up spiritual sacrifices." The building is a temple. And this is true whether we think of a single life or of the corporate Church. Within the temple of the individual life spiritual sacrifices have to be offered. Within the temple of the Church must be kept up the holy ministries. What the spiritual sacrifices are we may learn from the services of the older and material Temple. Find what was at the heart of the old ritual, and that without the ritual, is the spiritual sacrifice of the new dispensation. Illustrate, from the inner significance of the primary form of sacrifice, the burnt-offering. That was the giving of a man's whole self to God, represented by the giving of an entire animal. That giving of the whole self to God is the spiritual sacrifice which we can now offer as quickened, living men. And spiritual sacrifice include acts of praise, thanksgiving, trust—include everything that can fitly find expression for the new and spiritual life. That is the one and essential condition of acceptance. The new life must be in everything we think or say or do in the living temple. Formalities are of no value now, save as they are instinct with divine life. One law applies to the whole service of the spiritual temple—it must express the life of men who are "born to God."

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Select someone to write a three-minute note on "The elect people—who are they?" with illustration from Scripture. Have this followed by three five-minute papers or talks on: (1) The spiritual house—its foundation. (2) The spiritual house—its materials. (3) The spiritual house—its service.

Book Shelf

All books mentioned here can be procured from the Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

A Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. By Chas. Galland Trumbull. Published by the S. S. Times Co., Philadelphia. Price, \$2.50.

This splendid volume is a charming account of the cruise to the fourth World's S. S. Convention in Jerusalem last spring, written by the editor of The Sunday School Times. It is magnificently illustrated from photographs taken by the author, and is full of interesting information concerning the Holy Land.

The Church of Christ. By a layman. Published by Funk & Wagnall, New York. Price, \$1.00.

The author deals with Christianity as a religion adapted to all mankind. Most of the book is an epitome of New Testament history as recorded in the Gospels and Epistles, special attention being paid to cases of pardon. To be perfectly frank, there is little to commend in the volume, and it is difficult to determine why it was written.

John Knox and His House. By Charles John Gairdner, and illustrated by Oghland Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh and London. Price, 35c.

During this year the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Knox has been celebrated throughout the world, and special attention has been paid to his life and work. This little book gives much valuable information concerning the great reformer, and contains a number of excellent pictures illustrating his home and surroundings.

Marcellin. An historical novel. By Hampden Burnham, Author of "Canadians in the Imperial Service." Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$2.00.

A story of French-Canadian life in the time when Frontenac was Governor. The events described principally centre in and around the city of Quebec, and a very correct account is given of these times of turmoil. The tale is an interesting one, although many will dislike the way in which it ends. It is worth reading, however, for its historical value.

The Making of the Canadian West. By Rev. R. G. McNeill, Second edition. Published by William Briggs. Price, \$2.00.

This does not profess to be a connected history of the Canadian west, but rather a series of historical sketches. As such it is interesting and instructive. The story of the two North-West rebellions is told in a most graphic manner. The author was a participant in the military operations to put down the last outbreak under the leadership of Riel, and therefore writes from the standpoint of an eye-witness.

Husband, Wife and Home. By Charles Frederic Goss, Author of "The Redemption of David Corson." The Vir Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.00.

It is pleasant to the reviewer to find a book that can be commended heartily, and without reservation. Here is one of them. It deals in a trenchant and vigorous way with practical questions relating to the welfare of the home and the family, and abounds with good advice for husband and wife, not of the commonplace kind, but original, pointed and suggestive counsel. It is without exception the best book on home life that we have ever seen. Husbands and wives should read it together. It would be a fine thing if it could find its way into every home.

Occupations in Life. A fund of practical information and business advice for boys and young men. By Frank Marshall. Published by Chas. E. Fitchett, New York. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.00.

For young men who are not quite decided what their life work will be, this book is a treasure. It discusses the relative advantages and disadvantages of various professions, trades and occupations, and is full of valuable information.