

III. The blows of sin are surprises. They are *back licks*. Asahel felt no fear. Abner killed him with the handle.

COLEMAN.*

Christian Culture.

Troubled Thoughts of God and the Remedy for Them.

I remembered God and was troubled.

—Ps. lxxvii : 3.

To the unconverted, thoughts of God come laden with trouble.

I. BECAUSE COUPLED WITH THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GUILT.

Adam : "I heard thy voice. . . and was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." *Nakedness of soul.*

II. COUPLED WITH THOUGHTS OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

"I AM." "*Thou God seest me.*" Your own personality face to face with God's personality!

III. COUPLED WITH THOUGHTS OF GOD'S EMOTIONAL NATURE.

God *loves* good, *hates* evil, with all His infinite nature. Sinner must forsake sin or go down, along with it, under His wrath.

IV. COUPLED WITH THOUGHTS OF HIS ATTRIBUTES.

Holiness brings out the awful bleakness of sin. Justice and Truth—"I will by no means clear the guilty." Omniscience—Ps. lxxxix : 2-6, 11, 12. Omnipresence—Ps. cxxxix : 7-10. Omnipotence—Dan. iv : 35; Luke xii : 5. Immutability—He will never alter His decrees against sin. Eternity—He will always live to execute them. Goodness and Love—Leave the sinner *without excuse*.

V. COUPLED WITH THOUGHTS OF THE JUDGMENT.

"For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing." See also Rev. xx : 11-15.

VI. THE REMEDY.

"*Being justified by faith* we have *peace with God*," etc. For the believer, thoughts of his own guilt, personality of God, His attributes, the judgment, have no terror.

"O ! that all would believe,
And salvation receive,
And their song and their joy be the same!"
BEAUCHAMP.*

Fellowship With Jesus.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.—Acts iv : 13.

THE Greeks desired to see Jesus, a distinguished privilege (John xii : 21). Publicly and privately to be with Jesus, as His disciples were, a greater privilege still. In that real spiritual sense, to have him as one's friend and Saviour, in all the vicissitudes of life, is the greatest privilege of all. This is our privilege. Jesus is our Teacher, Priest, and King. Forevery good and noble purpose, he is one with the true believer. Let us notice:

I. LIFE'S TRUEST FELLOWSHIP: It is with Jesus.

1. It is real. Our fellowship is as real as that of the first disciples, or the saints in heaven, though similar to that of Enoch's, "who walked with God."

2. It is spiritual. Rom. viii.

3. It is heartfelt. Luke xxiv : 32.

4. It is sustaining. 2 Cor. xii : 9-10.

5. It is efficacious. Rom. viii : 37; Phil. iv : 13.

6. It is constant. Matt. xxviii : 20.

II. THE MARKS OF LIFE'S TRUEST FELLOWSHIP.

1. Simple faith. Acts iv : 7-12.

2. Manly courage. Acts iv : 20.

3. Sanctified wisdom. Acts iv : 19.

4. Decisive choice of associations. Acts iv : 23.

5. Faithful consistency of character in all things. Luke i : 6.

III. THE INFLUENCE OF LIFE'S TRUEST FELLOWSHIP.

1. It awakens surprise. "They marveled."

2. It produces conviction. "They took knowledge of them that had been with Jesus."

3. It disarms the enemy. Acts iv : 21.

ALPHA.*