

THE SOWER.

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The perfect righteousness of God
Is witnessed in the Saviour's blood ;
'Tis in the cross of Christ we trace
His righteousness, yet wondrous grace.

God could not pass the sinner by,
His sin demands that he must die ;
But in the cross of Christ we see
How God can save, yet righteous be.

The sin alights on Jesus' head,
'Tis in His blood sin's debt is paid ;
Stern Justice can demand no more,
And mercy can dispense her store.

The sinner who believes is free,
Can say, "The Saviour died for me ;"
Can point to the atoning blood
And say, "This made my peace with God,"

THREE SCRIPTURES FOR SINNERS.

“All have sinned.” (Rom. iii, 23).—“Not of Works.” (Eph. ii, 9).—“It is finished.” (Jno. xix, 30).

TO all unsaved sinners these scriptures are of every importance, as shown by the first that “all have sinned,” and if you die in your sins, “whither I go ye cannot come.” (Jno. viii, 21).

Reader, you have sinned against a God that loves you, but He is a God that cannot pass over your sins, and if your sins are not put away, you will have to spend an eternity without Christ in the lake of fire. (Rev. xx, 14, 15).

Now the question is how am I (an unsaved sinner) to get rid of my sins? not of works as the second scripture shows. Perhaps you will say I shall do all the good I can from this time till I pass from this scene. But God’s word says “not of works.” No! nothing you can do can atone for your sins. As soon as I reach this point, (that I am lost and can do nothing by which my sins could be put away) the third scripture brings peace to my soul. It is *finished*. Yes! dear reader, the only work that could put away sins was finished on the cross. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Do you ever think, though you have sinned again and again against God, still He loves you and gave His Son to put away the sins of

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whosoever believeth. Do you believe that blessed One died for you? If you do God says you have everlasting life. If you have not yet believed, delay no longer, to-morrow may be too late. Nothing can ever be added to that work, it was finished on the cross, and reader if you think you have to do some good work you deny that the work was completed on the cross. Just cast away all works and believe what the word of God says, "verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me *hath* everlasting life." (John vi, 47). If you do believe that Christ died for you how about your sins? they were laid on Him when on the cross; and God's righteous judgment fell on His head for them, but it does not end here. He was put in the grave and rose again the third day according to the scriptures, and where are your sins? they are gone and you are justified before God. (Rom. iv, 25).

All those, whose sins are washed away by the blood of the Lamb shall spend eternity in the glory. Those who die in their sins spend an eternity with the devil and his angels.

Flee from the wrath to come,—

God in mercy sent His Son,
 To a world by sin undone;
 Jesus Christ was crucified
 T'was for sinners Jesus died.

All who in His name believe,
 Everlasting life receive;
 Lord of all is Jesus now,
 Every knee to Him must bow.

IF THOU SHALT CONFESS WITH THY
MOUTH THE LORD JESUS.

IN the summer of 1889, I was in a town north of Toronto one morning, and while talking with a merchant of the place, a well known Doctor entered and mentioned that he had just come from visiting a patient named S—, who was dying of consumption. I was led to ask for further information regarding the dying man and found he had been what people call a “hard case” and had wasted his life with “riotous living.” Upon asking if I could see him I was told there would be no difficulty in doing so. Starting off in the direction of the house I soon was at the gate when I heard the groans of the poor fellow which accompanied each breath.

The woman of the house upon being asked if I could see the sick man said that while I was welcome to come in and see him, she was afraid I could not make him hear, as he had been quite deaf for several days.

I was shown into the room where he was, and I shall not forget the sight for many a day.

Upon the bed with his head and shoulders propped up with pillows half sitting and half lying was a man of about 45 years of age wasted to a skeleton. His long dark hair and beard tossing about as he restlessly turned from side to side, evidently in great pain. His mouth opening to its full extent at every breath which was drawn with great effort, and escaped with a groan.

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As I stood looking at him I thought what an awful thing sin is, which could thus transform man made in the image of God, into the poor helpless creature before me, upon whom death (the wages of sin) was now closing its icy hand. I also thought of the grace of God who could allow His well beloved Son to go down into death for such, that they might escape the death that never dies, and be made fit for God's presence: companions for His Son and fellow heirs with Him in all His glory as Man. Sad to say there was no such hope for the dying man. A neighbor woman who was fanning him with a fan made from a heavy piece of brown paper fastened to a lath in order to help him get his breath, when asked if he was prepared to die, said, "I'm afraid not sir, *His has been a wasted life.*" Finding he was quite deaf there appeared nothing to do but lift my heart in prayer for his soul which was so soon to be in the presence of the Lord. As I stood thus crying to the Lord for mercy upon him, I thought that if the poor sinner seeking pleasure in his sins and being lulled into quietness of conscience by the *deceitfulness of sin* could see this poor man who had been cheated by the enemy of souls, now in the grasp of the cruel monster both body and soul, so far as could be known, it would surely be enough to warn him to escape while yet there was opportunity.

As I was still praying to the Lord for mercy, and that some way might be opened to get the gospel before him the word came to me "according to your faith be it unto you." I went over to him and cried

into his ear. "Do you know the Lord Jesus?" There was not a motion to show that he had heard me and I have no doubt that avenue to his soul had been closed forever.

I had a little book in my hand which I placed before his eyes during a little time of comparative quietness and as I supposed ease from pain. His eyes fell upon the title and I saw that he had read it. I now had a hint as to how a word might be brought home to him, and turning over the leaves, still looking to the Lord in my heart for the right word, I found at the top of a page in larger type these words: "Dost thou believe on the Son of God." It was the very thing I wanted and holding the book before his eyes which were so soon to close for ever and pointing to the words I saw that he read them by *his look of intelligence*, and had the joy of hearing him say between his groans "*I do.*" It was a confession of the name of the Son of God and that scripture in Rom. x, 9, came to my mind—"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead *thou shalt be saved.*"

During the afternoon he passed away; the poor pained body got relief in death, and the soul, I trust was that day with the Lord Jesus in Paradise. Reader have you confessed His name before men, have you from the heart believed that God hath raised from the dead the righteous and holy One who died for sinners?

“AND I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE.”

HOW dreadful to stand before the throne of judgment! How many a “Woe is me!” will break forth from the countless myriads who shall stand before that throne! But there will be no altar there! No flying seraph? No live coal! No mercy! No provision of grace! What then? “The lake of fire!” It cannot be otherwise, if the judgment is to be “according to every man’s works.” Fire unquenchable, and the never dying worm, must be the consequences with all who stand before the great white throne of Revelation xx. Men may deny this. They may try to put it from them. They may reason about it. But all their reasoning, and all their philosophy, and all their learning, and all their criticism can never shake the clear and solemn testimony of holy scripture. That testimony proves beyond all question, first, that those whose names are in the book of life, shall not come into judgment at all, because Christ was judged in their stead. And, secondly, that those whose names are not written in the book of life, shall be judged according to their works, and appalling, thought!—“Cast into the lake of fire.”

Oh! beloved reader, flee, we beseech thee, from the wrath to come, and accept *now*, God’s full salvation!

PEACE.

IF the Lord speaks "peace" to the soul, what is the meaning of it? This gives it power, that it is not a mere passing word of kindness, but peace, eternal peace; because peace is made by His having borne our sins—by virtue of what He accomplished on the cross. It is on this ground He says "peace;" and if you see that in this sense He never speaks "peace" till He is risen, you see that "being justified by faith we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." "Much more then being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." (Rom. v, 9). Has your soul known this peace? and have you known what it is to be lost? Not merely acknowledging the need of a Saviour, or looking for supplies from Jesus, but knowing that what was due to you was borne by Jesus?

It presses too keenly on the heart and conscience to look at the cross unless you can say, it is peace.

The careless heart of man cannot bear to look at the cross, except he be at the foot of it, acknowledging his need of it; for he has to measure himself by the wrath poured out on Jesus. But if your back is turned on the cross, there is none to give peace. The cross may cause us shame when it leads us to see what sin is; but itself, it is the power of God unto salvation. Haste then to God who beseeches you to be reconciled. And may the Lord, in the riches of His grace, show you the vileness of sin, and that Jesus has drank the bitter cup of wrath but is now the risen Saviour; that you may enter this life of peace through Him who, in that He died, died unto sin once, that he who lives might live unto God.

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THE TWO WAYS.

“**B**EHOLD I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.” (Jer. xxi, 8).
“Therefore choose life.” (Deut. xxx, 19).

Dear friend, is it not joy to know God first offers life, and entreats your acceptance; death being His unwilling alternative to the rejectors of life. “Say unto them, as I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the *wicked*, for why will ye die.” (Jer. xxxiii, 12). But God’s holiness must be maintained. You cannot slight His way of salvation, and ultimately escape hell. Let us be very clear on those two points: “The way of life,” and “The way of death.” Now God is not willing that any should perish, and in heart-rending words He cries, “Ye will not come to me that ye might have life.” (John v, 40). Oh, my friend, if death be your portion it is your own awful choice, but we cannot believe it will be so; and earnestly do we entreat God to give you seeing eyes, hearing ears, and a believing heart, that you may come to Him who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” (John xiv, 6). That blessed One, God’s well beloved Son, was “made sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” (II Cor. v, 21). Is not this a wonderful truth that He who was intrinsic holiness, and spotless purity was made sin, (what a thought!) and for us. Yes, dear fellow-sinner, and that to make you the righteousness of God in Him, that you might be redeemed from the curse of the law,

death ; the wages of sin, (as a child of Adam,) for all are guilty before God. (Rom. iii, 19). How blessed it is so ; no room for the creature to reply to the Creator. Then why not at once take the lowly place before God as a guilty sinner and own His sovereign grace and love to you. Surely you can say,

“ Nothing but mercy 'll do for me ;
 Nothing but mercy—full and free—
 Of sinners chief, what but the blood
 Could cleanse my soul before my God.’ —
 “ Save by the blood He could not bless ;
 So pure, so great His holiness :
 But He it is who gave the Lamb,
 And by His blood absolved I am.”

Can any one think it is a light thing for the Lamb of God to have been made sin! to pass through that death on the cross, and endure the hiding of the Father's face. Why was all this ! That sinners believing should enter into the fruits of His precious work and know “ no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. viii, 1). This, dear friend, is only our side of the Gospel. This gives life, deliverance from death and judgment, but God does not stop there, we have justification through Christ's resurrection. (Rom. iv, 25). “ Being justified by faith (in Christ our risen Lord) we have peace with God. v, 1, and the Holy Ghost is given as the seal of Christ's work in us, (Eph. i, 13, 14:) and abides with the believer forever. (John xiv, 16). Dear friend we close here ; not that our joys in Christ, as given in His precious word are all told ; but trusting that if the Lord has awakened you to know Him as your Saviour-God and Friend, it will be your engrossing desire to search that life giving word for further treasure.

Remember God's word is “ hid from the wise and prudent but revealed unto babes—even so Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.” (Matt. xi, 25, 26).

CHRISTLESS RELIGION !

(MATT. VII, 22, 23).

THE above title would no doubt offend many an eye, to others it would appear quite out of place at the present time ; the growing goodness of the age, the increase of religion among men is pleaded on every side as a reason for rejecting the hard thought of the world becoming more wicked every day, and man in general on it more hardened and indifferent. It may appear harsh to some who read this paper to hear it stated that Christ is left out of the religion, or so-called Christianity of the great bulk of professors. Christianity is a word used to signify that a man is neither a Jew, Turk, infidel, or heretic, but without any sense of a soul really brought out of the world to God. In the popular use of the word, a man is said to be a *good Christian* though he has never believed on Jesus, has never known the forgiveness of sins, has never known Christ. Then religion, too, is said to be the common portion of nearly all decent professors. They attend their place of worship on the Sabbath or Sunday, they receive the sacrament once a month, or twice a year ; they give their money to spread the Scriptures, or to convert the heathen, and they feel better for it all ; yet are they unchanged, the very same in every respect ; or, if differing from those whom they term profane per-

sions, it is by no means to their own credit, being as "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are *within* full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." (Matt. 23-27.)

What can be more solemn than the words of the Lord Jesus, as His eye travelled over the wide world of *profession*? "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me ye that work iniquity." How dreadful this word, for the die is cast, the doom has come. Let me be faithful and straightforward. Look around you at this moment and what do you see? A great piece of hypocrisy being played by men, religion without reality, a noisy and a showy profession, by which souls are deceived and dragged down respectably and religiously to hell. This is that religion of which some one affirms, "that it has slain its ten thousands." Shall there then be no warning word? no beseeching men to pause upon the brink of so terrible a precipice? No holding forth the word of truth? Away with such thoughts.

Reader, there are two words in Scripture, and if they do not describe *you*, be assured your Christianity is Christless, and your religion vain—"born again" are the words. Have *you* been? "Marvel not that I said unto thee, *Ye must be born again*," are the words of Him who also said, "the Son of man *must be lifted up*." "MUST BE BORN AGAIN." Not

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must be religious, or must be moral, or must turn over a new leaf (as is said), or must mend your ways, but "must be born again." What a cutting searching word. It sets man in his best state or worst state aside altogether; it brings in a *new life, a new nature*. There is necessity here, for ye *must* be born again; such necessity that "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

There are two grand reasons why ye must be born again. *First*, because nothing less would suit God, righteous, holy as He is.

Secondly, nothing less would meet the case of man, ruined and lost in himself, irreparably bad. But do you say, where am I to get this other life, this other nature of which I hear so much in these days? The very same Scripture that shuts you out in your natural state, supplies the answer to your question. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

Reader, soon all *unreality* will have passed away; soon will this day of empty profession be over. Where shall you be found then? Where are you now?

And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come, and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev. xxii, 17).

"REJECTED CONVICTIONS."

THE following solemn fact was some time ago related by one who could attest its truth. It is inserted here with the earnest hope that any who read it may be warned by it not to resist the dealings of God with *conscience*. Man's way and wish seems to be to work upon the *feelings*, God's invariable way is through the *conscience* :—

A young person who had been a hearer of the truth from the lips of one recently brought himself to know it, was conscience smitten and arrested. She had deep convictions, she told her mother, and she a woman of pride and fond of the world, determined as far as she could to hinder what she saw plainly enough in her child ; for this purpose she set every kind of worldly trap and snare for her feet, and when the child would plead her unhappy state of soul with her mother, she made her think lightly of it, saying, religion was never intended to make people gloomy or morbid ; that she *must* go into society, that she must enjoy herself, and the world around her. Accordingly, she did go into society ; but it was only for a little, as she sickened and drew near to death. As she lay on her dying bed, she called her mother, and said, "mother, when I am dead, and in my coffin ; when my coffin is put down into the grave, do not allow any tomb-stone to be placed over me ; neither let there be any epitaph chiselled on my grave-stone, but

let me be simply buried. And when I am in my coffin, and covered up under the sod, and you are in this room, open that wardrobe, dear mother ; and you will see my last ball dress, and when you look upon that dress, you will see the sign of your sin, and of my doom." Thus she died. Oh reader, be warned ; be entreated to pause and reflect ere you say like Felix, "go thy way for this time." Remember TO-MORROW is the word by which Satan blinds and deceives.

The Gospel is the good news of God about His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, for a sinner such as you, that for you, even for such as you, God has got forgiveness, peace, glory, a place with Christ where Christ is *now*. It is His joy to *give to receive* ; His delight to make you a child of day, and of light. Christ has died, has risen again, is now in glory, the author of eternal salvation to every poor soul that looks to Him.

"We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us : we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him, to be sin for us, who knew no sin ; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (II Cor. v, 20, 21).

THE RED SEA.

MY reader, has your soul known the redemption of which the Red Sea is a type. Have you been brought there, and to feel that you could not tread the path opened to faith in your own strength; that if you attempted to do it you would be drowned? And have you found that it is no sea, but dry ground. That there is not a drop of water left there? If you have known the blood of Christ as your only hope before God, looking at Him as a judge; if you have known that you must leave Egypt and tread the wilderness, on your way to the promised rest, you may still be in a measure unable to say, "Thou in Thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed, etc." That does not mean that you are not on the road, but that you do not know, properly speaking, God to be for you — you may as a sinner have looked simply to the blood; but if you have not fully understood the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as emancipating you from the country and power of Satan, you have not stood still to see the salvation of the Lord. The waves and the billows of God's wrath have gone over the head of Christ; and He has made it to be no sea—He has come down into the very place of wrath on account of sin; and He has risen out of it, and all is over. The thunderbolt has lit on the head of Christ, and the storm is over for faith. Nothing gives such a sense of the horribleness of sin, nothing is such a testimony to the judgment of God against sin, as seeing Christ under it; and yet nothing is such a testimony to the love of God toward the poor sinner.