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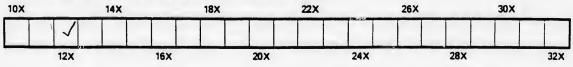
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# RULES

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# HOLY LIVING;

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### QUESTIONS

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# SELF-EXAMINATION:

A COMPANION FOR THE

POCKET TESTAMENT OR PRAYER-BOOK.

"Walk in the Spirit."

TWENTY-FOURTH EDITION.

HALIFAX: RE-PRINTED BY JAMES BOWES & SON. 1848. Let this Tract be a companion with your Bible; read it daily; refer to the different texts; meditate on the great truths so clearly and concisely stated in it; pray earnestly to God that, for Christ's sake, you may be enabled to lead the life herein directed; to forsake all sin; to look to Jesus who died for you; thus depending only on your once crucified Redeemer, who has promised he will cast out none who come unto him. Look with hope and not with fear upon death, and eternity, that awaits you, and to which you are daily fast approaching. J.A.R.

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# RULES FOR HOLY LIVING.

## 1.-OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

" God is light."

ENDEAVOR always to remember that you are in the immediate presence of God; and strive to act as you would if you saw the Saviour standing by your side. Recollect that He is really there.

Always intentionally aim to please Gop in all things. Frequently call to mind the expression, "Thou, Gov, seest me."

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God in nd the Neither do nor undertake anything which you would abstain from doing if the LORD JESUS were visibly before you; nor engage in anything which you feel you would have to repent of in the solemn hour of your death.

Carry into all your engagements a sense of the Omniscience and Omnipresence of God. II.-OF THE ATONEMENT AND EXAMPLE OF CHRIST.

"Who was delivered for our offences"-" Who went about doing good."

Repose in unshaken confidence on the sacrificial ATONEMENT of Christ ("who gave HIMSELF for us"), for acceptance with God.

Think often of those solemn words, "Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify GoD in your body and in your spirit, which are GoD's."

And test your experience by these: "The love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge that if One died for all, then were all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto HIM which died for them and rose again."

And remember continually that "even hereunto were ye called; because CHRIST also suffered for us, leaving us an EXAMPLE that ye should follow His steps."

#### III.-OF OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

#### " Quench not the Spirit."

Be unwearied, constant, ardent, in supplication for the blessed influence of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Diligently attend to HIS inward monitions; "for as many as are led by the SPIRIT of GOD, they are the sons of GOD."

Aspire to the entire "sanctification of the SPIRIT."

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God," by unsanctified thoughts, by vain words, by trifling habits.

Pray much for the clear "witness of the HOLY SPIRIT with your spirit.

#### IV.-OF FAITH.

#### "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of "things not seen."

Cultivate a deep sense of the reality of invisible things; for "the things which are not seen are eternal."

Exercise the spirit of faith as much as you do the act of prayer.

Be humbly and watchfully obedient that faith be not clouded.

Endeavor to rest upon the simple promise of God-implicitly "BELIEVE." I CH if fa I Div tho I tha Go

#### V.-OF LOVE. "God is love."

Frequently call to mind what GOD in CHRIST, has done for you.

Think on what he has in reserve for you, if faithful. "How great is His goodness!"

Be ever striving, from the principle of Divine Love, to please God in all your thoughts, words and actions.

Labor to realize that inspired truth—" He that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and GOD IN HIM."

#### VI.-OF PRAYER.

" Pray without ceasing."

Observe *fixed* seasons of religious retirement. Jesus "continued all night in prayer."

Never proceed to any business or engagement till you have *first* implored the Divine blessing.

Exercise exalted thoughts of the greatness and goodness of the DIVINE BEING addressed in prayer.

Rest firmly on the intercession of JESUS CHRIST.

Humbly depend upon the aids of the Holy Spirit.

Use no expression with the lips which you do not first strive to feel at heart.

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Beware of cold, formal, abridged seasons of prayer. Prevailing prayer is called "wrestling."—" Agonize to enter in at the strait gate."

Labor to preserve the *spirit* of prayer when not engaged in the act: continually sigh for the SPIRIT.

Let your prayers be engaged in as for the last time.

#### VII.- OF HUMILITY.

"Be clothed with humility."

Cultivate a deep sense of your own indescribable unworthiness in the sight of GoD.

Dwell upon your origin and end: "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Think of the purity of angels ; contrast with it your own sinfulness.

Mortify personal pride by remembering the infirmities and liabilities of your earthly frame

Mortify spiritual pride by remembering the vast imperfection of your best attaizments, and the tendencies to evil and backwardness to good, yet lurking within.

Mortify a fondness for human praise, by remembering its worthlessness.

Remember how many rise vastly above you in every good thing. H on Str N ing

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#### VIII.-OF MEDITATION.

" I will meditate in Thy precepts."

Endeavor after an even tranquillity of mind on all occasions, and in all circumstances. Strive to get accustomed to this frame.

Meditate, at least a short time, every evening, of set purpose, on Death and Heaven. Meditate much on your final account.

> IX.—OF SELF-EXAMINATION. "*Examine yourselves.*"

Use it every evening for the day, every Sabbath for the week, and more at large both monthly and annually.

Be searching and practical, taking the Holy Scriptures for a standard and guide.

Keep the mind close in this duty from wanderings and unfaithfulness, as you would dread formality and hypocrisy.

X.-OF FASTING.

"When thou fastest, appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy FATHER."

Use fasting, or abstinence, as a help to other devotional acts--such as prayer, humiliation, self-examination, &c.:

As auxiliary to the Scripture-precept to "keep under" and "mortify" the deeds of the body:

As an humble and practical acknowledge-

ment that we are unworthy of even our most ordinary mercies; and as preferring the care of the soul to the gratification of the flesh.

Let it ever be such "a fast as the LORD hath chosen:" "Deal thy bread to the hungry;" "Undo the heavy burdens;" "Bring the poor to thy house."

XI.-OF THE SCRIPTURES.

" Search the Scriptures."

Read the Scriptures, frequently, kneeling —with earnest prayer. "Read, mark, learn, inwardly digest" them.

Study them with fixed attention, to discern their spiritual meaning, connexion, and application.

Remember the spirituality of GOD's holy law; that it reaches to the thoughts and intentions, the purposes and imaginations, as well as to the words and actions.

XII.-OF THE SABBATH.

" Hallow my Sabbaths."

Carefully abstain from all but spiritual conversation: "Not speaking thy own words."

Strive to be " in the SPIRIT on the LORD's day :" "Not doing thine own ways."

Do no work on the Sabbath-day which you would not do on your dying day.

Have at least a Sabbath-hour in every day, as well as a Sabbath-day in every week. J car I em eve f em I em I nin f to

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#### XIII.-OF TIME.

" Walk in wisdom-redeeming the time."

Be regular in the disposal of time; be careful of moments.

Let every part of the day have its allotted employment. Be able to look back in the evening on every hour's engagement.

Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed.

Always have some useful work in hand.

Do not suffer a careless or loose habit of mind.

Go not where you have no need.

Endeavor by much prayer and watchfulness to connect time with ETERNITY.

XIV.-OF SLEEP.

"When I wake up, I am still with THEE."

Rise early—on first awaking; do not parley; redeem the time.

Endeavor to have prayer or praise, and thoughts of heavenly things, *first* in the morning, and *last* in the evening.

Ask every night if as ready to die as to sleep XV.—OF THOUGHTS.

"THOU understandest my thoughts."

Remember that your thoughts are heard aloud in heaven.

Cultivate a habit of governing the thoughts and imaginations. Do not suffer them to wander: frequently call them home.

Give thought a subject on which to be employed at any vacant moment; such as the presence of Gon—the cross of CHRIST the nearness of Eternity.

XVI.-OF WORDS.

" Let your speech be always with grace."

Avoid light, triffing, vain, and worldly conversation. Never speak merely to excite laughter.

Never speak without thought.

Never speak evil of any one.

Always intend the good of those whom you are addressing.

XVII.-OF ACTIONS.

" Do all to the glory of God."

Frequently ask your heart if you are now doing the will of Gon.

Accustom yourself to do everything in the name of JESUS CHRIST, as His disciple.

Try that every day shall be marked by at least one special work of love.

Wherever you go, inwardly pray that you do no evil unadvisedly, but be the means of some good.

XVIII.-OF REPROVING SIN.

" Reprove, rebuke, exhort."

Habituate yourself to speak to others on the concerns of salvation. F Lut E S ed :

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If reproof be necessary, "deal prudently," but never shrink from it to any one.

Be faithful, pointed, plain, and affectionate. Shew that you have the good of the reproved at heart.

XIX.-OF PERSONAL DUTY. " Ve are not your own."

" Know thyself." Reverence thyself.

" Deny thyself." Govern thyself.

"Abbor" and flee from "the appearance of evil." Guard the senses.

Avoid all occasions to impurity of heart. Eat and drink "to the glory of Goo." Eat to live, rather than live to eat. Be careful of health? Avoid repletion.

> XX.-OF RELATIVE DUTY. " Love thy neighbour as thyself."

" Do unto all men as you would they should do unto you" were you in their circumstances.

As a sacred duty, visit the sick. Always pray with them. Read to them the Scriptures. Ascertain their state. Lead them to CHRIST.

Cultivate the disposition of compassion to the poor: care for their spiritual interests.

> XXI.-OF MAKING PROGRESS. " Go forward."

Religion is the greatest business of life; therefore begin the day with God in prayer and reading His word—in mediation and solemn purpose.

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"Let not a day go over your heads in which your hearts have no converse with GOD in heaven; and remember that, so far as you suffer your hearts to retire from heaven, so far they retire from a life of Christianity and peace."

Aim in all things at the glory of GoD, and the good of man.

Be continually striving in the daily occurrences of life to exemplify the fruit of the SPIRIT in holy tempers, kindness, meekness, patience, purity, truth.

Neither speak evil nor hear evil.

If possible, get retirement at noon-day.

Watch, on all occasions, for opportunities of doing and gaining good.

Exercise habitual dependence on God, and trust in Christ everywhere.

Submit to trials, and use them.

Expect temptations and resist them.

Prepare for injuries and forgive them.

Inquire every evening if the day has been an improvement on the last.

IF Read these Rules every morning with earnest prayer. \* \* use impi Ho: also TE

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# HEADS OF SELF-EXAMINATION.

\* \* It is earnestly requested of those who may use this exercise of Self-examination, first to implore the Divine blessing upon it, that the HOLY SPIRIT may direct its application; and also carefully to consult and meditate upon the TEXTS referred to for illustration.

" What do ye more than others ?"

Am I now living in the favor of Gop? 2 Cor. vi. 2. Rom. viii. 15, 16.

Am I going on to sanctification ? 2 Pet. iii.

Do I intentionally aim to please God in all 18. things? Ps. lxvi. 18. 1 Sam. ii. 3.

Am I cultivating a constant sense of the

presence of Gon ? Gen. xvi. 13. Do I read and love the Scriptures more than

any other book? Ps. i. 2. Do I anxiously redeem the time ? Eph. v,

Do I study not to be comformed to this 15, 16. world? Rom. xii. 2.

Do I regularly and faithfully examine myself? 2 Cor. xiii 5.

Do I meditate much upon the joys of heaven? Col. iii. 1-3.

Do I live in the spirit of prayer? Eph. vi.18. Do I deny myself for CHRIST's sake ? Mark viii. 34.

Is the reproach of CHRIST dearer to me than the applause of the world? Heb. xi. 24-26.

Do I love my Saviour CHRIST with all my heart? Matt. xxii. 37.

Do I set my affections upon things above ? Matt. vi. 21.

Do I delight more to obtain poverty of spirit than the riches of this world? Mark viii. 35-38.

Am I constantly employed for GOD? John ix. 4.

Would I rather die than sin? Matt. v. 29.

Am I increasing in spiritual-mindedness? Matt. v. 6.

Do I delight in GOD more than I ever did? Ps. xxxvii. 4.

Am I dying daily to sensible objects, and living for eternity ? 2 Cor. iv. 17, 18.

Is the thought of *death* pleasing and comforting to me? Phil. i. 23.

Is it a part of my study to accomplish much for God in a little time? 2 Tim. iv. 2, 6, 8.

Are my tastes and dispositions more heavenly than formerly ? Ps. xxxiv. 8.

Do I relish most religious conversation? Mal. iii. 16.

Do I love best the company of the pious? Ps. xvi. 2, 3,

Do I seek opportunities of gaining and doing good 1 1 Cor. x. 33. Mat D Ps. A Mat D son A Jer T chu XXV CF 29 xc 8 to m

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Am I afraid of misemploying my talents ? Matt. xxv. 16, 19, 21.

Do I exercise all my influence for GoD? Ps. ci.

Am I carefully solicitous as to my example? Matt. v. 16.

Do I reprove sin without respect of persons? Ps. cxli. 5. Eph. v. 11.

Am I doing all in my power to save souls? Jer. ix. 1. Ps. cxvi. 12.

Do I regularly pray for the prosperity of the church, and the conversion of the world ? Ps. xxviii. 9. Matt. ix. 36—38.

Do I leave nothing undone to promote CHRIST'S kingdom upon earth? Matt. xxv. 29, 30.

Have my last days been my best days ? Ps. xc. 12.

Have I that faith in CHRIST which realizes a present salvation ? 2 Cor. xiii. 5.

Have I that love to Gop which constrains to obedience? 2 Cor. v. 14, 15.

Does the Spirir of Gon bear testimony to my acceptance with Him? Rom. viii. 16.

Am I sowing to the flesh, or to the SPIRIT? Gal. vi. 7, 8.

Do I grow in grace, and in the knowlege of CHRIST JESUS? 2 Pet. iii. 18.

Do 1 love the sabbaths and ordinances of Gop? Ps. xxvi. 8.

ove?

Am I never absent from the House of God when I could be present? Ps. cxxii. 1.

Do I visit and pray with the sick, the poor, and the destitute? Job xxix, 11-16.

Do I cultivate a spirit of deep humility? 1 Pet. v. 5, 6. Matt. v. 3.

Do I study to understand the Word of God? John v. 39.

Do I carefully heed the voice of conscience? 2 Cor. i. 12.

Do I watchfully guard against lightness of spirit? 1 Pet. iv. 7.

Do I always bear in mind my final account? Luke xvi. 2.

Am I daily living in the spirit of sacrifice? Rom. xii. 1.

Do I watch in the world for moments of inward communion with God? Ps. iv.4; xvi.8.

Do I always attend to the inward monitions of the HOLY SPIRIT? Eph. iv. 30.

Do I always remember the omniscience of God? Ps. cxxxix. 1-12.

Do I carefully abstain from speaking or hearing evil of others ? Ps. xv. 1-3. James iv. 11.

Have I done anything this day to save souls from death? James v. 19, 20.

Were I sure of dying this day, what should I immediately do? Isa. xxxviii. 1. Amos iv. 12.

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