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EDITORIAL

Easter Day

Arthur Brisbane, the well known columnist, recently wrote: "Modernism has weakened faith and fear.

It should, however, be possible to interest even the modern mind on what is to come, after the coffin lid is fastened down and the family goes about its business, leaving you there." On Easter Day Jesus gave humanity the solution to the greatest problem of life, the victory over death. He did not only reveal to mankind the resurrection of a better human nature through education, but a physical resurrection, which presages man's own rising from the dead.

Thousands of years ago the pious Job exclaimed in his anxiety: "If a man die will he live again?" Job answered the question himself by confessing, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another." Job. 19, 25-27. The events of Easter Day are the basis for our Christian hope of immortality. They prove our peace with God.

Because Jesus rose from the dead we have the certainty of the forgiveness of sins. Christ by His sacrificial death made atonement for our sins upon the cross. His resurrection makes the forgiveness of our sin certain; it proves that the peace between God and man has actually been established. We have not only a dead Christ, who gave His life on Good Friday, but we have a risen Savior who makes us exultantly sure of our redemption. "He was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4, 25.

The resurrection of our Lord likewise gives us a certainty of comfort in sorrow. Jesus manifested His gracious tenderness to all forms of sorrow especially also in His postresurrection life, as for example, to the fear of the women, to the weeping of Mary Magdalene, to Peter and to the sorrowing perplexed disciples journeying to Emmaus. Christians today have the same loving and comforting Christ. St. Paul tells us: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebr. 7, 25.

The resurrection of our Lord also assures us of His divine help in our weakness. We should be helpless in the law of harvest according to sowing, but we have the regenerating, sanctifying, penetrating strength of the risen Savior, who dispenses power from on high. By His gracious and constant help we can reap glorious harvests in the spiritual kingdom. The most thralled man need not despair if he will cry to the risen Christ.

Moreover, the events of Easter Day give the certainty that death shall not overwhelm us, although the daily life on earth must end. Some years ago a traveler among the pyramids of Egypt came across a mummy which was thousands of years old. In the mummy's hand a bulb was found. The traveler planted the root and within a short time it grew and bloomed into a beautiful flower. Thus the resurrection miracle takes place in nature and will be realized also among men.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, musing about himself, wrote in his journal: "I said when I awake after some more sleepings and wakings, I shall lie on the mattress sick; then dead; and through my gay entry they will carry these bones. Where shall I be then? I lifted my head up from the dark hills into the wide universe." How meaningless are these highsounding phrases to the true believer, for the orange light of the morning soon passes into the night's blackness. By the resurrection of



Jesus we have, thank God — something more and better — the living hope, the certainty of "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven." 1 Pet. 1:4. O. C. S.

STUDIES IN THE CHIEF TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE AND CATECHISM

Jesus Christ in the Grave

Last month we learned that Christ humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Now when He had died "Joseph went to Pilate and begged the body of Christ. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered (given). And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed." And Luke tells us: "And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how His body was laid." Luke 23, 55. Christ is buried! The Son of God is laid into the grave! He who had power over death and the grave, He who called dead Lazarus out of the grave, He Himself now lies in the grave! But what a comfort to us Christians! Into the dark and cold grave also you and I must go, but we need not fear it, for

our Lord and Master went into the grave for us and made it a resting-place for all them that believe in Him.

And where was the soul while His body was in the grave? One of the thieves crucified with Him said to Him: "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." And the crucified Jesus said to him: 'Verily, I say unto thee, To-day thou shalt be with Me in paradise." Luke 23, 43. And where is paradise? That is heaven with its fulness of joy and pleasure for evermore, Ps. 16, 11. There His soul was with the souls of all them that had died trusting in Him. And there also our souls shall be when our bodies lie in the grave. Surely, the grave of Jesus is full of comfort for us! As Jesus, so we!

Christ was laid into the grave. That also shows that He was truly dead. The Jews were sure that He was dead in the grave, and therefore came to Pilate saying, "Command therefore that the sepulchre be *made sure* until the third day, lest His disciples come by night, and steal Him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, *make it as sure as* **y***e can*. So they went, and *made the sepulchre sure*, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." Matth. 27, 64-66. Christ surely *died*, and that for us!

When Jesus came to the grave of Lazarus and said, "Take ye away the stone," then Martha, sister of him that was dead, said unto Him, "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he has been dead four days." But Christ's body did not begin to stink, for Christ in Psalm 16, 10 said: "Neither shalt Thou suffer (let) Thine Holy One to see corruption." And Peter tells us in Acts 2. 27ff that with these words He spake also of the open grave on Easter Day. The Jews sealed the stone at the door of the grave, but on Easter Sunday the grave is open and the Savior risen from the dead! And He will not let our bodies lie in the dust. He tells us: "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice and shall come forth." John 5, 28.29. That makes the grave of Jesus full of still greater comfort!

Think of these things when you in the Creed of our Catechism confess and say: "Jesus was buried," and, "I believe in the resurrection of the body," which words Luther explains thus: "And the Holy Ghost will at the last day raise up me and all the dead." Our Baptism also leads us to the grave of Christ, for in our Catechism we read: "Paul says, Romans, chapter sixth: We are buried with Christ by baptism into death; that like as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Often go to the grave of Christ, and there seek hope and comfort in life and death!

J. L. S.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL, 1931

"Now is Christ risen from the dead"

"Jesus lives: for us He died; Then, alone to Jesus living, Pure in heart may we abide, Glory to our Savior giving."

"The Lord is risen indeed!" With these words the disciples met each other on the first Easter Day. And with these words we should greet one another also on this Easter Day. Christ went into death and the grave for us, for our sins, and now He lives! Let us sing unto our risen King and live only to Him and the glory of His precious name! In order that we do this let us study the word of our risen Savior which we find also in our Bible Studies! Read and study them, one for every Sunday!

Study for Easter Sunday, April 5

"If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" I Cor. 15, 17

Bible Lesson: John 3, 16.17

"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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

To-day is the glorious Easter Day! What does it all mean? Why this joy and singing today in the hearts of all Christians? What has happened? "Christ is risen! Jesus lives!" And why does that make Christians so glad and joyful? Oh, this think that happened to-day about 1900 years ago sheds a glorious light upon upon the two verses of our study to-day.

What do these two verses tell us? They speak of God's Son who was proclaimed to be the Son of God with power to-day by the resurrection from the dead. God sent His Son into the world, and why? Not to condemn the world, not to judge it and to punish it. O no, not to condemn, but that the world through Him might be saved. The world was lost in sin and under God's wrath, for He says: "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." Gal. 3, 10. And now God in His great mercy sent His only Son, laid on Him the sins of us all, and let Him die the shameful death on the cross on Good Friday and to be laid into the dark and cold grave. O God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son! "O Love! O Love! how strong art Thou!"

Through Him the world should be saved! Through Him also you and I should be saved! And did He save the world? Did He get the victory over sin, death and Satan? Rejoice, my friend, to-day is the happy Easter Day, the day when the Son of God, who came to save, arose from the dead. O if He had died and not come out of the grave, then we Christians would still be in our sin and our faith would be vain! But, thanks to God, Christ is risen! "He was delivered (given into death) for our offences (sins), and was raised again for our justification (salvation)." Rom 4, 25. Salvation is finished!

Friend, do you believe in this crucified and risen Savior? Can you say to-day: "This risen Christ is my Savior?" O then you have a blessed Easter Day! Or do you perhaps not vet believe in Him? O take hold of the risen Savior to-day! Do not stay and die in your sin! He died for you and is risen and has forgiveness, life, and salvation for you. Trust in Him, and then blessed are you! Jesus tells us to-day that he who believes on the Son shall not perish, shall not be cursed and lost forever, but have everlasting life. For your sin you ought to perish and be lost forever, but in Christ you will live forever, because then you trust in Him who died for your sin, and then arose again.

You ask, "Is this Easter victory for me?" Yes, for you, for listen to this word of Jesus: "Whosoever believes." Whosoever, that means, every and any one, also you. Therefore come and trust in this risen Lord and sing unto God, saying, "Thanks to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15, 57. And then as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, so walk in newness of life for the glory of your crucified and risen Lord!

Again read this Bible lesson and answer these questions in writing: 1. What would happen if Christ were not risen from the dead? 2. How do you know that Christ's Easter victory is for you?

Prayer: Glory to Thee, O risen Savior! Thou wentest into death and grave for the sins of the world, also for my sin. For this we heartily thank Thee! And O joy, Thou didst not stay in the grave, but to-day didst rise again and didst bring the Easter victory to us. Now we are saved! Also we shall rise again from our grave and live with Thee. Amen.

Study for Sunday, April 12

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" John 8, 12

Bible Lesson: John 3, 18-21

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Jesus has finished salvation. He died on the cross and was buried, but now is risen again. And now he that believes on or in this Jesus, he who takes hold of this Jesus, saying: "This Jesus is my Savior," he is not condemned, that means, he will not hear the judge say to him: "You have done wrong. You are worthy of punishment. Go away from Me." O no, the judge will say

to him: "You are just by faith in this My Son You are free. Tesus Christ. Come and live with Me in glory." But he that believes not is condemned or judged already, yes, he judges and condemns himself, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Forgiveness and life everlasting God gives to man only by faith in His only Son who suffered and died for sinners and rose again. Therefore if any man will not believe in this Son of God, the Savior Jesus Christ, he is judged; by his unbelief he despises this salvation in Christ and is lost for-Do you believe in Him? ever.

O so many believe not! This is the condemnation or judgment, that light, that is the Savior Jesus Christ, is come into the world. He came to bring light and salvation to all the world. But what happened? Man loved darkness rather than light, they wanted to say in darkness and sin and did not want to come to this light in Jesus. And why not? Because their deeds (works or doings) were evil (bad). And Jesus tells us why this is true. A man who believes not does evil, and every man that does evil hates the light, and he does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved (brought to light), and he must be ashamed. That man will die in his sins and must go to everlasting darkness. But he that believes does the truth and comes to the light, that his deeds might be made manifest (known). He need not be ashamed, for his works are wrought (done) in God, and he will live with God forever. If you believe not, you hate the light, and you do not want to come to the light with your sins; if you believe, then you will come to the light for your works are done in God for Jesus' sake, and you will on the last day rise from the dead as Christ is risen and go to everlasting light!

Again read the Bible lesson and answer these questions in writing: 1. How is he that believes not condemned or judged already? 2. What will a man do if he believes?

Prayer: Risen Savior, Thou Light of the world, thanks for Thy finished salvation! Help that I believe in Thee and not need go into judgment, but to do the truth and come to the light and give glory to Thy name here on earth and, at last, live with Thee in everlasting light. Amen.

Study for Sunday, April 19

"The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" Luke 19

Bible Lesson: John 3, 22-30

"After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judaea; and there He tarried with them, and baptized. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. For John was not yet cast into prison. Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

After Christ had that talk with Nicodemus, He went into the land of Judaea with His disciples. And there He tarried (stayed) with them and baptized. Jesus going from place to place seeking lost sinners. He seeks and calls sinners still to-day, saying: "Come to Me, I will give you rest." Happy are you, if you have found Him and His rest!

John was still seeking to lead people to this Jesus, the only Savior. He was not yet cast (thrown) into prison. Now he was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and people came and were baptized. All people need to be washed from sin. Therefore let us also seek to bring lost sinners to Christ, for without Jesus there is no salvation and no forgiveness.

Christ was baptizing, and John was baptizing. Now there was a question or quarrel between the disciples of John and the Jews about purifying (washing). And they saw that people now went to this Jesus for baptism and not to John, and therefore they came to John and told him that that man to whom he had borne or given witness now was baptizing and that all men were going to Him. But John told them that this was from God, for a man can receive nothing, except it were given him from heaven. It is God's work that people go to this Jesus. So always God must give success, without Him we can do nothing.

And now he tells them that they need not be surprised at this, for they themselves must bear witness or say that he said: "I am not the Christ, but I am sent before Him." John did not seek honor, he wanted glory only for Christ. He was sent to prepare the way for this Christ. And God had blessed his work and now was turning the hearts of men to Christ. And he explained this in a beautiful way, saying: "He that has the bride is the bridegroom." The bridegroom is Jesus, and His bride are all the believers. And he, John, is the friend of the bridegroom, the best man, as we would say. And the friend of the bridegroom stands and hears the bridegroom welcome the bride, and that makes him rejoice. So John rejoices to hear that so many people go to Jesus and that He welcomes them. His joy now is fulfilled. For that he had worked, and now he sees it all fulfilled, and therefore he must rejoice. His work is finished, and now Jesus must increase, but he must decrease. They must not be surprised if people, more and more, go away from him and go to Jesus. Surely, also we in our work for Jesus must not seek honor and glory for ourselves, but only for Jesus, and our greatest joy should be to bring sinners to this Jesus and to see them trust in Him and love Him!

Again read this Bible lesson and answer these questions in writing: 1. Why should we Christians do as John did, and why? 2. Who alone can give success in this work of saving souls?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help that we, Thy believers, seek to bring sinners to Jesus Christ, Thine only Son and our only Savior, and help that they turn to Him, trust in Him, and love Him, and so our joy be fulfilled. Do it for the glory of Jesus' name. Amen.

Study for Sunday, April 26

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" Acts 16, 31

Bible Lesson: John 3, 31-36

"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. And

what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth His testimony .He that hath received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Now John urges his disciples and all people, also us, to trust in this Jesus, the only Savior. We should not trust in ourselves nor in any man. He tells us again that Jesus is come from above, from heaven, and is above or over all. Plainly he tells us that this Jesus is true God. He that is of the earth, a man of this world, is earthly and speaks of the earth; he knows nothing of heavenly things, except God give it to him. But Jesus who is come from heaven testifies or speaks the things He has seen and heard in heaven. If you want to know heavenly things, you must listen to Jesus. But John tells us: "No man receives His testimony (word)." John's disciples said: "All men come to Him," and John says: "No man." Too many for his disciples, but not enough for John. Only a few believed, as it is still to-day. Christ's words are God's words, for "Him whom God has sent speaks the word of God." Therefore he who receives not the word of Jesus savs that God is not true. How terrible! But he that receives His testimony (word) has set to his seal, or sealed it, that God is true. Jesus speaks the words of God, for He gives not the Spirit by measure to Him, but the fulness of His Spirit. And the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He rules over all the world. The Father sent Him, the Spirit lives in Him, He speaks the word of God and has all things in His hand. He is the mighty and everlasting God with the Father and the Spirit.

And God sent Him to bring everlasting life to a lost world and now asks all the world to believe in this His only begotten Son of the world and the only Savior of sinners. John says therefore: "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life." A man who takes this Jesus for his Savior, not only will have, but *has* everlasting life. Do you want to live forever? Do you *now* want everlasting life? Then, my friend, believe in this Son of God and the Savior of the world. But what if you believe not? What if you will not take this Jesus for your Savior? John says: "He that believes not the Son shall not see life." A man who does not say, "Jesus is my Savior; He saves from sin," will not see life, will not receive this everlasting life with God, but what will happen to him? O listen, "the wrath (anger) of God abides (stays) on him." Surely, you do not want God's wrath to stay on you. It will if you go before God without Jesus, if you believe not in Him! O come! May God grant that every one of us trust in this Savior of sinners, so that we all have everlasting life now and forever. And then let us all help to bring many others to this only Savior.

Again read this Bible lesson and answer these questions in writing, and then send all your answers to your pastor: 1. What does John say of them who receive and of them who receive not the testimony (word) of Jesus? 2. What does John say of them that believe and of them that believe not the Son?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, grant that we believe in Thine only Son Jesus Christ and receive Thy word as true, and also that we trust in Thy Son, and so not be lost forever, but have everlasting life. May many more learn to know this Thy Son and our Savior and with us praise Thee forever. Amen. J. L. S.

"WITH THE BEREANS"

"They (the Bereans) received the word with all readines of mind, and searched (studied) the scriptures (Bible) daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11.

'Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11.

If death were the end of all, then those people would be right and wise, who find their greatest happiness in the passing pleasures of this life. Then the Christians who do not take part in the so-called good times of the unbelievers would have to be considered foolish.

But, thank God, the grave is not the end, is not the goal of our lives. We have a sure hope of an end of the trials, pain and disappointments of this life and definite assurance of joys that never cease in the companionship of Jesus, our risen Savior, in heaven. During April, then, let us live in the spirit of the joyful Easter season and for our comfort in times of sorrow, grief and affliction, let us study and remember well these verses:

- April 5: "Our Savior Jesus Christ hath abolished¹ death." 2 Tim. 1:10. ¹conquered, overcome.
- April 12: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever believeth in me shall never die." John 11: 25. 26.
- April 19: "Because I live, ye shall live also." John 14: 19.
- April 26: "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:12. J. A. C. B.

INFORMATION OF GENERAL INTEREST

The elder of our two deaf boys in our orphanage in China, Yang Yo-han, wrote us an appreciative letter which Rev. A. H. Gebhardt was kind enough to translate into English and forward to us.

Mr. Yang who lost his hearing at the age of 14 years through an illness, is now 20 years of age. In his letter he tells of the various schools he attended and how he met Rev. Gebhardt, who taught him religion. He continues, saying: "And the year before last (1928), at Christmas, I was baptized, thus becoming a new man." . . . "You are preaching the Gospel to the deaf. That is a fine opportunity for the deaf to be saved." . . . "I ask you to pray for me constantly, beseeching the Holy Spirit to move us, to strengthen my faith, so that I shall not be led astray by the devil." . . . "May the Lord grant you eternal happiness."

Pastor Gebhardt also wrote us, informing us that in the summer of 1930 our missionaries at their annual conference passed two resolutions that bear on the question of work among the deaf at Shinan: 1. "We agree that there is a need for a missionary at Shinan whose work shall be the religious instruction in the orphanage and teaching the blind and the deaf." 2. "We recommend that the Foreign Mission Board call two of the new missionaries coming to China this year (1930) for these new positions."

We are most happy to observe the active interest of our brethren in China in the temporal and eternal welfare also of the deaf and the blind, and trust that He who left the multitude aside in order to remove the physical and undoubtedly also the spiritual handicap of one deaf man (Mark 7) will quicken increased interest in the neglected and desperately needy deaf and blind in China today.

To this end such Christians as Mrs. D. Hertlein of Alma, Mo., can be used by God, for we are herewith expressing our gratitude to her for a gift of \$5.00 for "The School for the Deaf in China Fund." The best and most important contribution of Mrs. Hertlein for this purpose, however, is the prayer accompanying her money gift: "May God's blessing go with it!" We hope that other interested readers may join in her prayers. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth (can do) much." James 5, 16. J. A. C. B.

IS THIS YOUR PICTURE?

Some years ago a very striking painting was exhibited, and I want to so repaint it by words as to let my friends see it in their minds.

It was a view of the seaside. You could almost think you saw the waves in the distance come rolling nearer and nearer toward the beach, and then hear the noise as they broke upon the shore. The sky overhead was a rich blue, and the sun was shining in all its glorious brightness. There was only a small strip of the beach to be seen as the tide was coming in, and the visitors seemed to have left for their lodgings.

But there was something more than the sea and sky and beach in the picture to attract the gaze of onlookers, for lying on a small piece of rock, a little above the level of the sand, was a beautiful little girl. She had in one hand a small pail, and beside her lay a little shovel. But why does she not get up and go home to her friends? for, as I said, the tide is coming in, and the little rock is nearly surrounded by the water, and look! one small shoe is already being washed by the advancing waves. Why then does she tarry? Ah, do you not see? Her eyes are closed — she is asleep. Weary and tired with play, she lay down, not thinking of any danger, and now she is asleep, quite unconscious of the dreadful death that awaits her, for I notice that underneath the painting is written the word — *Doomed*!

But perhaps some of you may ask why I have tried to bring before your minds such a dismal picture as this. I will tell you. That painting is a picture of each one who is not yet saved. "What!" you ask, "do you mean to say that I am in danger — that I am doomed to die?" Yes, dear friend, this is perfectly true, for I read in God's Word, "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). But although doomed to die because of the sins you have committed (Ezek. 18: 4), there is One who will save you from death if you trust in Him. There was no one near the little one on the beach; no strong arm reached out to lift her to a place of safety; no savior to save her young life. But how different it is with you; although you are in danger, there is a loving Savior able and willing to save.

But some may say, "I do not feel that I am lost in any danger." Then you are like the little girl in the picture — you are asleep. Satan tries all he can to keep people from knowing the danger they are in. Do not believe him any longer; believe what God says. Wake up, flee to the Lord Jesus, and as He loved to fold the children to His loving heart when living on the earth nineteen hundred years ago, you will find that He is still the same, and that He casts out none who come to Him. —True Tales.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

After earthly life is past, what comes next? After the world's gain and loss, its joys and sorrows its sins and follies, what then? All are agreed, none can deny, that standing at the end of life's pathway is the stern reality — Death. "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9: 27). God has ordained it: He will bring it to pass. Neither power nor wealth can stay His hand. The unwelcome messenger visits the palace and the cottage alike. And what comes next after death? Can anybody tell? Is there any certain answer can be given? Tradition's

reply is --- "Uncertain." Religion says --- "Hope for the best." Worldly Wisdom echoes - "A leap in the Dark." Amid all this Babel of conflecting voices, so distressing, perplexing, and bewildering to an honest man, desiring to know with certainty what shall be his portion and his destiny beyond the present, what a mercy it is to have one clear voice sounding loud above all others, even the voice of Eternal God. To Him we turn with confidence; to His Word we listen with silent awe. He is the God of Eternity, as He is of Time. "The world to come" is to Him as well known as the present world. What does God say comes next? Let Him tell us. "After this the Judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Yes, to the sinner who lives and dies in sin, judgment follows death - righteous judgment. The judgment of God, "who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). To the Christless, unpardoned, unregenerate sinner, that judgment will be damnation, for "who will be able to stand?" But some have met their God in judgment already. They have learned from His Word their guilt, and fully owned it. Grace has met them, justified them freely, and given them a title to another world beyond the grave. At death they go to be "with Christ, which is far better" (Phil. 1:23). "They are present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). There is certainty there: God has spoken. Let His voice be heard. For the Christian, for the believer, the born again one, heaven comes next. To the sinner, the unbeliever, the unconverted, judgment follows death - the punishment of sins committed and loved on earth. Reader, what awaits you? Glorv or judgment? — J. R.

MY INCOME

"I have been, for the last twenty years, tithing my income, and have been greatly blessed in doing so, though I never connected my offerings with worldly prosperity until I read the tithing leaflets. Now I feel constrained to think the two things analogous. I have often wondered in the last few years of business depression why it is I have not felt it, but on the contrary have been continually prosperous, and that, too, as a farmer."

- Adventures.

THE POWER OF SEED

A returned missionary from Orissa, India, when speaking in London of the condition of heathenism in his field of labor, said that several years ago the city of Puri was thrown into great consternation, on account of the falling of a stone from the roof of Juggernaut's temple, which was erected seven hundred years ago. and on which from that time there had not been a trowel laid for repairs. When the stone fell, Juggernaut was absent from his temple on a visit to his "sister," and the stone, weighing some ten or twelve tons, fell with a crash on the jewelled throne of the idol. When Juggernaut was brought back from his visit, the workmen were repairing the temple, and the god had to be put up for a time at the house of his "brother-in-law."

After the falling of the stone the building was examined, and it was found to be entirely unsafe, and on the verge of ruin. There was no mystery about the cause of its dilapidation; the birds had carried berries from the Banyan tree to the top of the temple, and had dropped the seeds where they fell into the crevices between the stones, and there, buried in the dust of ages, when watered by the dews of heaven and warmed by the sunbeams, these seeds had germinated, and the tiny shoots had struck down among the stones, working their way hither and thither, until they had heaved the massive rocks, and separated one from another the ponderous stones which composed the temple.

One could hardly find a more apt illustration of the power of the Gospel of the Son of God. A temple built by the wealth of ages and the toils of generations, and standing firm through successive centuries, at last shattered and brought to desolation by the Divine vitality implanted in a few little insignificant seeds! But just as the temple, after standing for ages yielded to the vital force of those little seeds, so the dark superstitions which that temple represents, though they might resist the iron hand of force and the changing power of passing centuries, must decay and crumble into utter ruin when the Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation, once finds entrance into the benighted crevices of hearts darkened by sin and superstition.

Let those who toil in the Master's cause be of good cheer. Their labor is not in vain, no matter how feeble the instrumentality may be. If a flock of sparrows can subvert an idol temple that has stood for centuries, surely the people of God, of more value than many sparrows, using that good seed, the Word of the kingdom, may do a work which men or devils never shall be able to withstand.

-The Armory.

AN INFIDEL CONVERTED

A youth of sixteen entered college, and graduated with the highest honors of his class. His most intimate friend was E——, who was very bright and witty, and remarkably winning in his person and manners, but a confirmed infidel. The ambitious youth came fully under the influence of his gay and brilliant companion, and when he left college, he, too, could ridicule the Bible, and crack his jokes at the expense of the weak-minded (?) people who believe it to be the Word of God.

While traveling, one evening, he stopped at a country inn, and the landlord apologized for the necessity of putting him in the room adjoining an apartment occupied by a young man who was extremely ill, and in a dying condition. The youthful infidel smiled at the apology, for what was death to him? However, in the stillness of the night he heard through the thin partition the groans of the sick man, groans of suffering; groans, it seemed to him, of despair. He was ashamed to find that these hollow and hopeless groans not only disturbed him, but appalled him, and he covered his head with the bedclothes in profound mortification, when he reflected that the intellectual, witty and sarcastic E---- would laugh him to scorn if his weakness were discovered. At last all was still, and he fell into an uneasy sleep. When he awoke, descending to the office, with an assumed indifference he inquired after his fellow lodger. "Dead," was the blunt reply of the landlord. The infidel was starled, but again asked in a careless tone, "Do you know who he was?" "Oh, yes, he was a graduate of P---college, and a fine fellow. His name was E----, and it's a pity he died so young, for he would have made his mark."

And so the groans that made the young stranger think of E—, as a refuge from his unmanly fears, were the groans of E— himself, the wicked and mocking deist, in his dying hour.

This young skeptic afterwards became the devoted and distinguished Dr. Adoniram Judson, the "great missionary" of Burmah.

CONTENTMENT THAT CONVERTS

Marshal Feng, that remarkable Chinese Christian general, was profoundly moved by two experiences with missionaries. In 1900 he saw a young woman die joyfully for Jesus Christ. Then a madman tried to kill Feng, but instead his bullet killed an American medical missionary. The widow refused to ask for compensation for her husband's death, and when Feng offered her \$7,000 she said that the mission supplied all her needs.

Practical unselfishness, manifest unworldliness, evident satisfaction with the Christian life and its rewards, these are the best advertisements of our religion. We can make our lives the most powerful of evangelical sermons. The world is being won to Christ by the Christians who in Christ have all things and abound. — Ames R. Wells.

WORK FOR CHRIST ACCEPTED

There is a beautiful story told of Professor Von Herkomer, the celebrated sculptor and painter. His father, who was himself a sculptor, lived to a great age; and in his declining year the keen sight and sensitive touch, so necessary to the modeling which up to the end of his life he delighted to do, departed to a large extent from him. The modeling he did in later years was, of course, far from reaching his accustomed standard.

After he went to bed, however, each night the brilliant son who loved him would go into the studio where the old man had been at work and,taking his work in hand, would correct all its deficiencies, giving it here a touch and there a touch, and rounding off its corners and crudities, as he was so well able to do. Then when the old man came to the studio in the morning, the time when his failing eyesight was keenest, he did not see the imperfections and was happy in the work, all unconscious that someone else who loved him had been correcting his work and beautifying it.

We do not know if the story is true, but we are sure that is what Jesus does for us when we honestly do our best for Him. He who has begun the work by inspiring us to begin, will overrule its mistakes and transform its poorness by His own beautifying touch until it is sometimes of real value to His cause in the world. Let us not be afraid to try to do personal work for Christ. He can use and bless and perfect our most imperfect efforts.—H.

THE VOLTA BUREAU

The Volta Bureau located at 1601 35th St., N. W., Washington, D. C., maintains a special library dealing with deafness and related subjects. Schools, missions, and welfare organizations for the deaf and the hard of hearing in all parts of the world send their reports and periodicals to this office. These are bound and preserved.

The library is at the service of research workers, teachers, welfare workers, and anyone interested in alleviating and preventing deafness. O. C. S.

FROM OUR READERS

O. R. S. of Kentucky says: "I received the Deaf Lutheran. Oh, I like it so much. Please send it to me every month. I thank you."

R. A. H. of Ohio writes: "I read the Deaf Lutheran and find it very, very interesting. I am especially pleased with the editorials and the Studies."

A Minnesota reader tells us: "I am interested in the Deaf Lutheran since I, too, can learn from the Bible Studies."

BEING SATISFIED

To be satisfied with what you have, but never with what you are, means growth and joy. —Young People.

MISSION NEWS

Minneapolis Mission-When Jesus speaks of the Last Judgment, He tells us that He will say to those on His right hand: "I was sick, and ye visited Me," and to those on the left: "I was sick, and ye visited Me not." With these words He tells us that we should visit the sick and comfort them with His word. Then we should also pray for the sick, for in James 5, 15 we read: "The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" We should pray for the sick and visit them! The following Minneapolis deaf are on our sick list: Mr. E. Gage, who suffers from a stroke, at the General Hospital; Mrs. Alice Jones at the County Home; Miss Marion Olson at the Glen Lake Sanitarium, Roy Hassler, Fanny Knudson and Clara Roberts at the State Hospital. Pray for them and visit them and bring them a word of cheer from the Bible! J. L. S.

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Cleveland Mission for the Deaf and Blind-In the past weeks we have received communications from blind persons in Mexico, which tell us that there is a great deal of religious indifference in some parts of Mexico and fanaticism in other sections. The writers, who communicated with us in Spanish Braille, have offered their kind coöperations in our efforts to disseminate Christian knowledge among the sightless and the deaf-blind south of the Rio Grande. O. C. S.



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