

If nine-tenths of the Christians of America were as weak physically as they are spiritually they would travel in a wheelchair.

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"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them."—Isaiah 8:20

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Man's Questions And God's Answers

Man is constantly asking questions. One of the most encouraging signs in the mental development of a boy or girl is the habit of asking questions. The person who really succeeds in this world in material things is the one who is constantly, inquisitively, and persistently asking questions. The one who takes things for granted and reposes on them just as it comes will never move along in that way for life all his days, but the person who wants to know why and wherefore is the one who makes the most of the circumstances which surround him in life.

Our subject is one which concerns every man; and I do feel that the topic, as I have noted it, is one that is particularly applicable to the man who has not yet satisfied himself regarding the great facts of the spiritual life and the spiritual experience.

To each of the questions which I want to bring you, there is a simple form of answer, all of which are absolutely definite, simple, and easy to understand. They are not obscure questions of the hour, but are entirely practical for you and me, and altogether important, because they have to do with a man's eternal destiny and a man's experience in all the ages yet to

be. The first is one which every man who believes that there is a God, infinite, eternal, and unchanging, must necessarily stop and ask:

Am I Accountable To God?

Must I answer to Him? Is there a day coming—and I insist that we keep the question practical—when you and I in a very real manner shall stand before God and give an accounting?

This is a fundamental question; this is an important question, and one well worth considering and thinking over: Am I Accountable To God? (Continued on Page Three)

Global Typewriter Would Never Bring Global Peace Without Prince Of Peace

Martin Tytell wondered whether the United Nations could let him save the world with a typewriter. He said the U. N. is considering the idea. "It's not as crazy as it sounds," he said. "I've already made typewriters for one hundred men—either right or left-handed—and others that are adaptable to 145 different languages."

He said the idea he had in mind for the U. N. originated with the late Senator Robert Owen of Oklahoma. "It is called a 'global typewriter,'" he said. "Its characters, based on phonetics, are universal. I believe, as Senator Owens said, that once the people of the world begin to speak and write the same language, so that they finally understand each other, we'll finally have peace."

APOSTASY

As the age moves forward in the apostasy in the professing church advances also. This is in accordance with Biblical prophecy. We note several recent news items that indicate the spread of de-

based the language of the people, the first murder was committed. (Gen. 4).

And it was while "the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech," that man had corrupted his way, and filled the earth with violence. (Gen. 6).

It is not so much one language that will bring peace, although a "pure language" is one of the things in store for the people (Zeph. 3:9), but it is the advent of the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) that shall result in universal peace.—Tom Olson.

A Soldier of the Cross

"Am I a soldier of the Cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?"

"Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease?
While others fought to win the prize
And sailed through bloody seas?"

DRINKING AMERICA

The following editorial appeared in a metropolitan newspaper which is famous for its wet stand.

"From 1492 to the present moment, Americans have never drunk so much alcohol or spent such a sizeable portion of their income for intoxicants as they do now.

"And both of these items are increasing by leaps and bounds. Treasury statistics show that liquor consumption has grown faster than the population, ever since repeal, in 1933.

"Of every \$100 left to consumers after taxes, \$3.50 was spent on whiskey in 1946, as compared with \$2.20 in prewar 1939.

"During the fiscal 1947, federal excise tax collections soared to these heights: whiskey, \$1,685,400,000; beer, \$661,400,000; wine, \$57,200,000.

Mused Uncle Mose

Sist' Julie Simpson, she say,
"Pahson, don' you t'ink it a sin to go to chu'ch w'en yo' don' actual want ter go?" An' Pahson, he say, "Nah, dat ain' no sin; de sin is not waintin' ter go."

The First Baptist Pulpit

"PILLARS OR SLEEPERS--WHICH?"

"And when James, Cephas, and John, WHO SEEMED TO BE **PILLARS**, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision." — Gal. 2:9.

It is a common habit on the part of most people to lament the present and to think about the past. If I mistake not, one of the greatest habits the majority of God's people have is that of lamenting the present and thinking about the "good old days" of the past. The majority

of folk spend the major portion of their time thus lamenting the good old days that have passed into eternity. I am sure that there are folk here this morning, including your pastor (I too have been guilty of it many times), who have talked about the good old days fifty years ago. It just dawned on me this past week that they have been doing this since Adam's 51st birthday. I have an idea that since Adam was 51 years old, that they have talked about the good old days 50 years ago. Well, as I was thinking about it, I ran across a little poem in a very unexpected manner — a

"Mother," said a young girl as she felt death approaching, "is it a terrible thing to die?" "It is in deed," replied the mother. "I wish I could die for you; but you have seen the priest, my dear child, and confessed to him, so you need not be afraid." "It is true," answered the girl, "I have confessed all the sins I can remember, and the priest has given me absolution, but yet before long I shall be in purgatory, and you know, mother, you are very poor." The unhappy mother felt the truth of these words. "Yes, Maria," she replied, "we are very poor, but I will work day and night to earn money to pay for masses for your soul. Do you suppose your poor mother could rest till you were released from suffering?" "I have been thinking," said the poor girl, "a great deal about my cousin Catherine. She was so happy before she died, though she had not confessed nor receive absolution. She did not believe in purgatory, but said she would go straight to heaven." "Catherine was a heretic, Maria," said the mother, "and out of the true church. It is better for you to die unhappy than to die in error,

as she died." "I often think," continued Maria, "of her words, 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.' Psa. 23:4. What did she mean, I have no rod nor staff, I have no comfort. I can think of nothing but the flames."

"Come, my child, illness has depressed your spirit; leave all this to the priest; try to rest and think no more about Catherine." "Well, mother, I will try, but I cannot help thinking it would be much better not to go to purgatory at all, but to go straight to heaven when we die." "It is not for people like us to go straight to heaven, Marie, we must follow the way the priest marks out." "But mother, it is a very hard way, and I am often afraid that those who once fall into the flames never come out again." "If the priest knew what you are saying, child, it would indeed be difficult to pay for the masses he would require. Here is your brother Patrick, he will sit by you, and try to comfort you while I am away." (Continued on Page Two)

A Short But Forceful Sermon As How To Follow Jesus, Based On John 21:21, 22

After Peter had listened to the Lord say something about John tarrying until he should come, Peter asked the question, "What shall this man do?" Will he live always and never experience death? Will he have some special privilege that the rest will not have? Will Jesus permit him to live until the hour of His return? These questions were very real to Peter. They are often very real to many other Christians. Jesus answered in a very unusual way. He said, "What is that to thee . . . follow thou me." That places the responsibility where it belongs in Christian living.

Jesus did not mean as some religionists would say that you and the lost world are to follow my teachings. That you will be good and heavenly and Heaven-bound if you follow the example I have set before you. This system of salvation has been built up by Satan and it leads its victims to the place that all his satanic efforts are designed. For it is plainly "Not by works of righteousness that we have done" that God has marked out

for the way of salvation to the sinner.

This message is addressed to those who have already been saved by grace and are already on the right road with a real experience in their hearts of what the Lord means in their salvation. To them, they may find this exhortation to FOLLOW as a proper thing indeed. There are several ways suggested in the Bible as means and ways of following Jesus.

Matthew found it right and proper to follow Jesus IN SPITE OF BUSINESS. Matt. 9:9. Business is necessary, if legitimate, and business is proper. BUT business may not have you so circumscribed that you CAN NOT FOLLOW JESUS! Therefore follow Jesus regardless of business.

The people in Matt. 8:22 heard Jesus declare that they were to (Continued On Page Four)

RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY

Russia is exerting frenzied efforts to portray Communism as superior to other forms of government. Ponder this statement by "Believe It Or Not" Ripley, most painstaking ascertaining facts:

A Russian citizen:
May not own land.
May not be tried by a jury.
May not choose his own job.
May not absent himself from work.
May not strike.
May not picket.
May not employ labor.
May not travel.
May not own jewelry.
May not ring a church bell.
May not be friends with a foreigner.

Is forbidden freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, freedom of soul.

"You will thus see why Communist dictators are frantically resorting to misrepresentation of conditions in their own land and of conditions in non-Communist lands." — Forbes Magazine.

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"PILLAR OR SLEEPER"

(Continued from page one)

go to a gathering of religious people, you'd think by listening to those who speak, that all the good people, and all the good preachers, and all the good Christians, and all the good churches belonged to the past and that there are no good churches, no good preachers, and no good Christians left today. That is not so! Brethren, we ought to have men today in the pulpit just like Paul, Peter, James and John; and we ought to have churches just like the church at Jerusalem, Smyrna, Philadelphia and Antioch; and we ought to have Christians just like Mary, who anointed the Lord's feet with ointment. We ought to have Christians just like Barnabas, who sold his property and gave it all to the cause of Christ. We ought to have Christians just like Lydia who entertained and lodged the preachers in her home. The truth of the matter is, we do have churches, we do have Christians and we do have preachers today just as good as the Christians and the preachers of the days gone by. The sad thing about it is most of us can remember those hey-days of unusual experience of the past, and we glorify these to the extent that we forget about what God does for us today.

Now, in the light of that, beloved, I come to my text to make an appeal to you. I am appealing to you in the light of this text that we ought to be pillars today just like the pillars that are spoken of in my text.

I

WHAT IS THE WORK OF A PILLAR? Immediately you would say, "to support," and that is true. When you build a house, you first put down the foundation, and then you put a pillar on that foundation that shall support the house that you build. As a pillar supports a house, or as a pillar supports a bridge, or as a pillar may support any structure you may erect upon it, so, beloved, the work of Christian men and women, if they would be pillars for our Lord, is to support the truth of the Word of God.

I am ready to grant you that it is an *inconspicuous work*, this work of being a pillar. Nobody ever notices a pillar. Why, there isn't one of you here that can say what kind of pillars you have under your house. You could describe your house, for it is noticeable; but you don't know what kind of pillars you have supporting it. The pillar is inconspicuous. You may drive along the road some day and see a marvelous piece of masonry construction by way of a bridge. You marvel at that bridge because of the evidence of the mastermind of an architect that has produced it. How-

ever, nobody ever considers the pillars below which support and hold up that bridge. The work of a pillar I say, beloved, is an inconspicuous work. And the work, beloved, of being a pillar in the house of God is an inconspicuous task for a child of God.

Maybe that is the reason most of us don't want to be pillars.—inconspicuous! There isn't any limelight in being a pillar. To be a pillar in the house of God, beloved, doesn't bring you into the forefront and doesn't cause people to notice you. I like the words of a little poem that I quoted the first Sunday I preached from this pulpit, and have quoted it often since:

"Father, where shall I work today," and my love flowed warm and free.

Then He pointed me out a tiny spot and said, "Tend that for Me."

I said, "Oh, no, not there, why no one would ever see No matter how well my work was done—

Not that little spot for me."

And the look He gave, it was not stern, He answered me tenderly,

"Ah, little one, search that heart of thine

Art thou working for them or Me?

Nazareth was a little place and so was Galilee."

I insist, beloved, that as the work of a pillar is inconspicuous, so the work of being a pillar in the house of God is inconspicuous. Any person who is willing to be a pillar for the Lord, must take an inconspicuous place just to be used by Him.

There is quite a great deal of satisfaction in being a pillar. If I were a pillar over which a railroad bridge had been constructed, I imagine that I would think to myself, how wonderful it is to support that bridge over which trains carry precious cargo every day. Some day maybe a king and queen will pass over that bridge, and I could say, if I were a pillar, that I was supporting the bridge over which the king and queen were riding. Or maybe a circus train would pass by and I could say that I was supporting a bridge over which this circus train passed. Or maybe a president would ride by some day in his own private car, on the bridge that I was supporting. I could say that I was supporting the bridge over which the president's private car had passed.

I say, beloved, there ought to be satisfaction come to the child of God who is a pillar in the house of God. There ought to be satisfaction in knowing that you are supporting the doctrines of election, justification by faith and the security of the believer. There ought to be satisfaction in knowing that you are supporting the truth of the church that Jesus built. There ought to be satisfaction in knowing that as a pillar you are supporting the great truths that are laid down in the Word of God. What a joy, what a satisfaction ought to fill and thrill our souls when we realize that we, by our stand for the Word of God, are pillars to the truth, — pillars in the house of God, and that we are supporting the great doctrines of the Word of God.

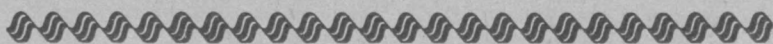
II

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MAKE THE BEST PILLARS? Who makes the best supporters of the truth?

First of all, *one whose life is clean, whose life is not contaminated by the things of this world*. No individual can properly support the truth unless his life is free from the things of this world.

(Continued on page three)

Pray for people you don't like, and God will show you something in them you do like.



CHRISTIANITY AND NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS COMPARED

RELATION TO GOVERNMENT

CHRISTIANITY gives no direct commission to its followers to attempt the control of government by means of politics. It inculcates principles of moral rectitude applicable to everyone. Its superiority is manifest in every land, in proportion to the place the Word of God is given, in public and private life.

BRAHMANISM. When the Aryan people first came to India, the priests, by cunning strategy, gained both religious and political control of the new kingdom. This continued until foreign aggression overthrew the feudal states and they lost their political power.

HINDUISM has not been one of those religions which was dependent on political power for its existence. It has flourished under every rule though it has not always tried to control the reigning power. Its hold is so firmly rooted in the Hindu heart, that no government has dared to attempt its overthrow.

BUDDHISTS. The non-aggressive self-annihilating character of Buddhism has prevented it from entering politics with a view of gaining control of governments in the various countries. Confucius' idea of government was that of a paternal despotism coupled with the personal rectitude of his subjects; but Buddha remained indifferent to politics.

TAOISM. Through occult power and other means Taoist priests have tried to control the Chinese government. They were largely to blame for the Boxer movement and are constantly endeavoring to overcome Christianity and drive its missionaries from the country. It is a most deadly foe to the international peace of China.

CONFUCIANISM has so moulded Chinese thought that the whole empire has followed its teachings and grown up as one large family, conservative and self-contained. Confucius held that he should always be consulted in governmental affairs. He said: "If officials could not rectify themselves, they could not manage the government."

ZOROASTRIANISM. Zoroaster, as a religious teacher, endeavored to bring about social and political changes through his moral principles and persuasion. He did not take up the sword, as did Mohammed, to enforce the acceptance of his beliefs, but trusted to his hearers to act uprightly on their own convictions.

THE PARSEES are law-abiding citizens. They have but little to do with political matters. This may be partly on account of their fewness in numbers, their having no governmental authority of their own, their preference for business and enjoyment of quiet domestic life.

SHINTOISM. Shintoism was once the state religion. In 1889, when the constitution was adopted, Shintoism was disestablished. Japan now has no state religion, yet it assists in maintaining a few old shrines as historic monuments. Shintoism exalted patriotism to the position of a religion and the emperor was made the object of worship.

MOHAMMEDANISM has the spirit of its founder—"Rule or ruin," peacefully, if there is no opposition, but with the iron heel, if necessary. Mohammedanism makes all governments bend to its dictates wherever it can gain control. To have supreme authority is the spirit of the religion.



THE YOUNG IRISH GIRL

(Continued from Page One)

At this moment Patrick entered. He sat down by his sister, much grieved by her altered appearance; the doctor had given no hopes of her recovery, and he had come from a long distance to see her before her death. "Maria," said he when they were alone, "what were you saying about cousin Catherine?" "Oh, Patrick, I was saying, I wish I could be as happy as she was. She did not confess to the priest nor receive absolution. She used to say that was not necessary; but she had no fear because—" "Because she believed in the Lord Jesus Christ," interrupted Patrick, "and therefore had no reason to fear. The Lord Himself comforted her with the assurance of His love, and pardon of her sins; what need could there be for a priest to assure her of it?"

Maria looked at her brother with astonishment. "Are you also a heretic?" "Do not trouble about that, Maria; I do not deny the truth; on the contrary I have read the Word of God for myself, and find it so full of love to poor sinners that it has become more precious to me than anything else." "Have you a Bible then?" asked Maria. "Where did you get it, did you ask the priest? Does he know?" "No, I assure you I did not, but

I met a Scripture reader (as I think they call him), who told me that in England people were allowed to read their Bibles. I said, 'I am the Queen's loyal subject, why should I not have a Bible also?' The good man gave me one, and I have read it and I have found forgiveness and am happy." "Oh Patrick, why did you not come and tell me this before? Do tell me what it says in the Bible about purgatory." "I have looked from beginning to end, and there is not a word about it; the priest knows that, and therefore forbids you to read the Scriptures. I assure you, my dear sister, there is but one thing necessary if you are to be as happy as Catherine." "What is it, Patrick? I would give all the world to know how my sins can be forgiven."

"Here it is," and drawing from his pocket the precious little volume that has been the means of bringing salvation to his own soul, the young Irishman read: "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." John 3:16. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." I Tim. 1:15. "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and

with His stripes we are healed. Isa. 53:5. "The blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from sin." 1 John 1:7.

"These words are very beautiful," said Maria, "but how I to know that all this is true?" "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31. You do not think I would deceive you, Maria?" "Oh, no, Patrick; you have always been a good, kind brother to me." "Then will you have confidence in the Lord who died for you? Listen to the words addressed to all who believe, you, feel the burden of sin, their need of forgiveness: 'Unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' Matt. 11:2. 'Him cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.' John 6:37. Do you suppose, Maria, that Christ suffered half the punishment to sin, and that the sinner to endure the rest? This is teaching of the priests, but of the Word of God. When a woman who was a sinner came to Jesus (Luke 7) He knew her tears and penitence to be the result of faith in Him, and comforted her with the sweet assurance, 'They sins are forgiven thee.' Again, when the Saviour pardoned the dying thief, He said to him, 'Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.' No doubt the priest would have thought purgatory good enough for a robber but the Lord treated him as a friend. The blood of Jesus is the sinner's plea; those who rest in Jesus and His precious blood are forever secure, 'there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.' Rom. 8:1. They become children of God, and heirs of everlasting life. Saint Paul speaks of the departed as 'present with the Lord.' 2 Cor. 5:8. He desires to depart and be with Christ. To all who believe in Jesus, death loses its terror. Oh my dear sister, look to Jesus the Lamb of God, and when you leave this world you will go to be with Him, and sin and sorrow and pain will never again trouble you. It is written, 'The Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them into living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.' Rev. 21:4.

The young man ceased speaking. Solemn indeed, but so speakably blessed, were those moments in that charming place where a short time before he was a victim of ignorance and superstition lay in the grasp of an enemy who was ready to claim her and make her his prey forever. Blessed be God, He who is the resurrection and the life, who has the keys of Hell and death, had by His Spirit moved upon the troubled waters and had threatened to overwhelm the soul of the dying girl. The darkness had given way, a ray of true light from above enabled her to behold by faith the Lamb of God who died for her salvation. The anxious and despairing look had passed away and one of trust and joy lighted up the wan and death-like features. Psal. 142:3-4.

"Oh, Patrick," she exclaimed, "I know it all now. I am happy now; Jesus has forgiven my sins; I am saved." And in that blessed assurance, after lingering a few days, she departed leaving another testimony to the power of the Word, and God's sovereign grace. Acts 12.

Paul, the aged, said, "For me preaching of the cross is to my shame and foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to

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MAN'S QUESTIONS AND GOD'S ANSWERS

(Continued from page one)
accountable to God? We like to boast of our independence, and we like to say we are not answerable to anyone; but are we definitely, personally accountable to God? Listen to the answer from Romans 14:12: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Your question and my question is a definite one: Shall we give an account to God? God answers it just as definitely: "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God. That settles the matter! It is a statement on the authority of God Himself. And it is just as foolish to try to escape the dawn of a day as it is to escape giving an account to God. The second question is:

Does God Know All About Me?

This one, too, is important. It is on the basis of the first, that I have to give an account to Him, does God know all about me?

Those with whom I associate are merely the outside. They see what I say; they see my actions, but the inner man they do not know. My thoughts are hidden and hidden from the knowledge of my friends. Does God know all about me? God gives the answer to this question in Hebrews 4:13: "All things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Notice the third question:

Does God Charge Me With Sin?

This becomes more and more important upon the basis of the preceding two questions and their answers. I shall give an account to God, and God knows about me. (Let us keep it to the simple and practical.) Does God charge me with sin? Is it all recorded against me? It does not matter how well I can excuse myself to some other person. It does not matter how other people regard me. Here is the important question: Does God charge me with sin?

Let me merely read the answer from Galatians 3:22: "But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin." And again, from Romans 3:23: "For ALL have sinned." This is God's charge: "All have sinned." It is an utter impossibility for any man or woman to escape the all-inclusive net of that little word of three letters, A-L-L. From the prince in the palace to the waif in the street, from the highest to the lowest, from the east to the west — "All have sinned."

And it does seem that it would be wise for any man, if these answers are true and correct, to sit down and face them. He would face any question of his daily life or of his business life.

Will God Punish Sin?

Now God's answer to the question just preceding this is that you and I are charged with sin. Therefore will God punish sin? I realize there are those who say that God is too good to punish sin. But, notice, this sin is not originated with man but with God. There is no sin in all the revealed Word of God where it says He will punish sin. All the way through God says that He will punish sin.

The answer to that question is found in Ezekiel 18:4: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Also, Romans 6:23: "For

the wages of sin is death." It is not the mere physical death, the death of the body; it is eternal death, the second death.

A few days ago I read a part of a letter from Dan Crawford, over in Africa. In that letter he tells about one of the phrases of the Book which is influencing the wonderful revival of the dark people in Africa — "the second death." Dan Crawford tells how even there, as it is here, there is that idea which some men voice and so many seem to believe, that man dies but once — in the flesh; but God says there is a second death.

The fifth question following naturally after this is:

Need I Perish?

Is there no way I can escape the punishment and judgment for my sins? I am accountable to God. He knows all about me. He does charge me with sin. He will punish sin. But need I perish for my sins?

Let me read God's answer in II Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The sixth:

How Can I Escape?

There is running through the midnight darkness of the coming judgment a ray of hope. God is not willing that I should perish. How then can I escape? How can I get away from the coming judgment on sin? That, too, is a practical question.

The answer that God gives is just as plain and definite as the question. In Acts 16:30 we read: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

The Gospel is the most simple thing in all the world. There is first of all the great, stupendous, inescapable fact of sin, and that we are linked with it. Then there is the fact of Christ, and Salvation through Christ. Is it not simple? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Notice the seventh question:

Is He Able To Save Me?

God says, in answer to the question as to how I can escape, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." The thing I am concerned about next is whether He is able to save me. Has He the power, has He the ability to rescue me from the punishment of sin and the judgment to come? You will find God's answer in Hebrews 7:25: "He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him."

Now that we know on God's own authority that He is able to save, the next question, the eighth, would be:

Is He Willing To Save Me?

Oh, so many of us are able to do things, but we are not willing! We are face to face with the great facts of sin and of judgment. We have discovered on God's authority, in answer to our questions, that He is not willing that we should perish; that He has provided a way of escape by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ; and that Jesus Christ is able to save. Now is He willing to save? The answer is in I Timothy 1:15: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

When you think of the Babe in the manger of Bethlehem, of the dying form of the Son of God on the Cross of Calvary, and of the empty tomb, dare you ask, "Is He willing?" He undertook the journey to earth from Glory, and went through all the anguish and suffering on Calvary's Cross, the guilty to save. Then He is willing; He is willing!

Let me take the ninth ques-

tion. This is one in which so many people seem to become involved, and yet God's answer is very clear and very plain. It is a simple question, a practical question, and an important question:

Am I Saved By Merely Believing?

God's answer is in John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."

There is no other condition of salvation but faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour. May I use just one illustration.

You remember when Jesus hung on Calvary's Cross, there were crucified with Him two thieves, one on the right hand, the other on the left. One thief joined with those around ridiculing Christ, but the other thief rebuked him for it, and said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom." And Jesus said to him, to the thief who was dying on the cross, "Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." He had no work to do so that he might gain salvation. He only had a criminal record. But on the cross, with his last breath, he believed! He was saved by merely believing on Jesus Christ.

In following the natural line of questionings, the tenth would be:

Can I Be Saved Now?

It is God's answer I am concerned about, and it is God's answer which means everything to you. Listen, then, from II Corinthians 6:2: "Behold, NOW is the accepted time, NOW is the day of salvation."

Now is the time to decide. You know not about tomorrow, and yesterday is gone, "Believe (NOW) on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Let me take the next question:

Can I Be Saved Just As I Am?

Without preparation, without getting ready, without making myself better in character and appearance? Can I be saved just as I am? With all my sin, with all my stains, with all my filthiness?

Let me read the answer from John 6:37: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

No matter how filthy your garments, no matter how stained by sin, and bruised by many a fall — "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

The twelfth question:

Shall I Not Fall Away?

If I do come, and if I am saved, what if I shall fall away again?

In Jude 24, God answers: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling."

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." — Rom. 8:38, 39.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." — John 10:28, 29.

The thirteenth question briefly follows this:

If I Have Been Saved, How Should I Live?

If I have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, how should I live now? God's answer is from II Corinthians 5:15: "They which live should not henceforth live

BLESSED HOPE

This is the hope that sustains us;
This is our lamp in the night;
This is the beacon we follow,
Waiting till faith becomes sight.

This is our pillow at night time,
The promise in each golden dawn;
This is the spur for the sluggard:
"Occupy while I am gone."

This is our heart's choicest treasure,
Balm for our sorrow and pain;
Words that are precious as rubies:
"Christ Jesus is coming again!"
—Martha Snell Nicholson

unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them."

And here is a question which has made strong men tremble and brave men weak. It is the question which has broken down the reserve of many a man as he has stood on the edge of an open grave:

What About Death And Eternity?

Let me give you the answer of Jesus Christ Himself: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2).

Is it not true that, as I have passed from one question to another, I have touched all the great questions that man has to ask? And is it not equally true that to every question of man's there is the definite, plain answer from God Himself?

God's Question

Over against man's questions and God's answers, I want to put the one great final question that God asks of you. And God waits, the angels wait, all Heaven waits for your answer! God has answered your questions. What will you do with God's question? How will you answer it? He has one single question to ask. And I challenge any man or woman who has not yet done so, to face it, and give answer! This is God's question to you, my friend: "What will you do with Jesus, which is called Christ?" God has answered all the questions you can ask. How will you answer Him? What will you do with Jesus, which is called Christ? Will you say—

"Here and now I accept Him as my own and only Saviour?" —The Standard Bearer

APOSTASY

(Continued from page one)
V. Denny, etc. This is quite a conglomeration of "faiths" for one platform—Unitarian, Christian (so-called), Jewish, Hindu, and what not.

Dr. Allen E. Claxton, pastor of the Broadway Temple-Washington Heights Methodist Church, New York, stated in a sermon on October 11th, that "Jesus Christ, who declared He came to teach men the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man" was the "greatest adventurer. Two thousand years have passed since Jesus started this great adventure and millions of people have caught at least part of His vision and have tried to adventure with Him."

And of Mahatma Gandhi, the late leader of India, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, Methodist missionary, preacher, and author, said: "The Hindu, Gandhi, has taught me

more of the Spirit of Christ than perhaps any other man."

—Our Hope

"PILLAR OR SLEEPER"

(Continued from Page Two)

I saw the other day, a pillar that had been taken out of a house that had become contaminated by termites. It was practically eaten away. That pillar couldn't support the house any longer; it had become contaminated. Listen, beloved, the kind of folk who make the best pillars, the kind who are the best supporters to the truth, are those whose lives are clean, whose lives are not contaminated by the things of this world. Listen:

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."—Psa. 66:18.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that HE WILL NOT HEAR."—Isaiah 59:1, 2.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THEM THAT DO EVIL."—I Peter 3:12.

"Be ye THEREFORE PERFECT, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."—Matthew 5:48.

Wouldn't you like to be a pillar for the Lord? Wouldn't you like to know that you, as a child of God, are upholding, supporting and sustaining the truth of the Word of God? Beloved, remember, the best person in this world for a pillar to support the truth is one whose life is clean from the things of the world.

Furthermore, the folk who make the best pillars are those who have the courage to stand for their convictions. Two passages of Scripture in this respect come to my mind. Both of them are taken from the Book of Acts. Listen:

"But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK THE TRUTH." (Continued on page four)

THE YOUNG IRISH GIRL

(Continued from page two)
to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:18-21. "Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5:6.

—Selected

"PILLARS OR SLEEPERS"

(Continued from page three)
THINGS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD." — Acts 4: 19, 20.

That Scripture, beloved, was given at the time when Peter and John were forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus. Their answer was that they couldn't do anything but preach the words which they had received from God to preach.

Listen again:

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN."

Beloved, what we need as children of God to be supporters of the truth, and true pillars upon which the super-structure of the truth can be built, — what we need above everything else is courage to stand for the convictions we have on the Word of God.

I like to read the Book of Daniel. I like to go back and see how that Daniel had courage—the courage of his convictions. Daniel stood up against three kings and defied them all, loving God more than he loved the king. I like to see him as a young man in the king's college when he was studying and preparing to be a part of the brain-trust of Babylon. I like to see him when they put pork and wine in front of him and commanded him to drink, yet he said, "Not so, it is forbidden me to do it." He learned then to say "no" to what he thought was wrong. He learned to stand for his convictions. See him as an old man of ninety years age, when his enemies prevailed upon the king to pass a law forbidding anyone to pray except unto the king, for thirty days. Daniel had a habit of bowing down three times a day with his face toward Jerusalem to pray. I like to see Daniel as he continues to bow before that open window with his face toward that city of Jerusalem to pray, even though that edict had gone out — that all who did so would be cast into a den of lions. Beloved, look at him as he prays. He was so firm in his conviction as to prayer and the manner whereby he had been praying, that he even defied the king and went into a den of lions to stay all night with the lions rather than compromise his convictions. Beloved, the man who makes the best supporter of the truth — the man who makes the best pillar, is a man like Daniel who stands for his convictions.

Again, what kind of folk make the best pillars — the best supporters to the truth? Well, beloved, those who are regular in their attendance in the house of God.

When I first began to preach, I held a revival meeting in a church where I had an unusual experience. On Monday night when I started the revival, a fellow came in and sat well up to the front. I had never seen him before. After the services, he said, "I am the church clerk." I had been pastor there about four months. I had not seen him. I said, "Well, I certainly am glad to see you. I had heard we had one, but I am glad to know that you are it." The second night of the meeting, he scooted up two or three seats closer to the front. The third night, he began nodding his head. The fourth night, he voiced a weak "Amen," and the fifth night, he said "A-M-E-N!" Beloved, by the time the revival was over, that fellow was on fire! I said

to myself, "If this meeting has not done anything else, it certainly has uncovered a mighty good man, and now he'll really get started in the service of the Lord." You know, beloved, the next Sunday I looked and I couldn't see Him. I looked the next Sunday, the next and the next Sunday, and, beloved, it was the next revival meeting before I saw that man again. Not until the next revival meeting did I see my church clerk again! I learned then, beloved, that the man who is going to count for the Lord is not the man who gets all enthused for the Lord and burns up his spiritual energy once a year in a revival, but the man who is regular in the house of God with his attendance Sunday after Sunday.

It is wonderful to see a person get all enthused and to hear an individual shout and to notice a man nod his approval as the preacher preaches. I grant you, beloved, it is wonderful to pass through an experience like that once a year, but, beloved, how much greater support to the truth that man could have been if he had spread his energy out over twelve months and been faithful in attendance all during the year. The man who is going to be a pillar for God — who is going to support the truth in the best manner, is not the man who goes to church once in a while and gets enthused, but the old draft horse who keeps plugging the whole year out, and who will be in his place every time he has an opportunity to do so.

I like horses. All through my life I have enjoyed horses. There is just something about a piece of horse flesh that always thrills me. Some people like to go to a horse show where they have these nice fine saddle horses that walk with prancing feet and hold themselves so beautifully as they walk, and they are pretty. I like them myself. But, beloved, I like that old draft horse that gets down and pulls. He doesn't prance like a saddle horse, and he doesn't fuss and fume at the bit, but he has power, and when he gets down to pull, he just pulls. Would to God that every man and woman in this house would take the position of an old draft horse and just pull with regularity; be in your place Sunday after Sunday, service after service for God's own glory.

Beloved, the folk who make the best kind of pillars, who are the best supporters of the truth, have to have these characteristics. They have to have their life clean from the contaminations of the world; they have to have the courage of their convictions; they have to be regular in their stand for the cause of Christ.

III

THERE COMES TO MY MIND A WARNING. Sometimes a pillar gets out of order and has to be repaired. A few years ago, the bridge between Portsmouth and South Portsmouth which had been insured quite heavily, was rejected for insurance. They found that one of the pillars which was supporting and suspending that bridge was just a trifle off the perpendicular. It became necessary that they take the floor out of that bridge, that they lower all the central span down into the river on a barge, and then they pulled these barges over to the side of the river and anchored them there for months. They worked about that pillar and brought it back to a position where it was perfectly perpendicular and then rebuilt the bridge. I talked to the man who was the manager of the bridge at the time, and he told

me that it cost them a quarter of a million dollars because one pillar got just slightly off perpendicular. Before they could get insurance on it — before they could allow people to pass over it again, that bridge had to be repaired because of the pillar that got out of order.

Sometimes, beloved, a pillar for God gets out of order. Simon Peter did. In my text, Paul refers to Simon Peter as a pillar. He said, "he seemed to be a pillar"; and he was. But Simon Peter got out of order in the day of the Lord. Even if Jesus were his preacher, he got out of order. He had to get back in position before God used him. I say, beloved, sometimes a pillar gets out of order. That wasn't the only time Simon Peter ever got out of order as a pillar, for if you will read with me, you'll find these words:

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, BECAUSE HE WAS TO BE BLAMED." — Gal. 2: 11.

So there are two times in the life of Simon Peter when he, who is spoken of as a pillar to the truth, got out of order and had to be repaired.

Let me ask you a question this morning: Are you a pillar? Where are you today? Are you supporting the truth today? Did your pastor once lean heavily upon you? Oh, let me speak personally, — did I once lean heavily upon you? Did I once depend upon you, yet now I can't? Did you once support the truth one hundred percent, and were you all out for the things of God? Did you invite people to the house of God? Did you take your place in the service of God? Did you witness for the Lord during the week?

Let me ask you — what are you today? A pillar or a sleeper? There is a world of difference.

IV

BELOVED, THERE IS A FUTURE IN STORE FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A PILLAR FOR GOD. The first time I read this verse of Scripture for it to make an impression on me, it thrilled me through and through. Listen:

"Him that overcometh will I MAKE A PILLAR in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." — Rev. 3: 12.

There is an honor in store for the man who is a pillar for God today. Some day God is going to make you a pillar in the temple of New Jerusalem. I think it is an honor for a man to be recognized as a pillar now in his church. I think it is an honor for any man to be recognized as one who supports the truth in his church today, and who is one hundred percent out and out for God. But what an honor is going to be ours in that day — in that glorious day to come, when we become a pillar in the temple of God in the New Jerusalem.

Let me ask that lost man who is here this morning, — would you like to be a pillar in God's house today? I have a feeling that there are men in this house who would like to be pillars for God. Let me tell you that you have to have the proper foundation put in first, and that foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." — I Cor. 3: 11.

Beloved, let God put in the foundation and then you become

a pillar for God, and build upon the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I think about you who are here this morning, I thank God for those of you who are pillars, who stand for, and support the truth with your presence, and who support the truth with your money, your prayers, your sympathy and who contend for the Word of God in every particular.

I pray that God shall give courage to that individual who is a pillar, who is trying to support the truth, that you might become a better one.

May God reach down this morning save some precious soul and make a pillar out of you for His own glory!



"FOLLOW"

(Continued from page one)
FOLLOW JESUS IN SPITE OF CUSTOM OR SENTIMENT! He said, "Let the dead bury the dead, follow me." It isn't wrong for the dead to be buried. But even custom about burying people (and the customs vary a great deal) must not be so iron-clad that it would interfere with one following Jesus. The idea of the dead burying the dead is striking indeed. Dr. Walter Wilson, President of Kansas Bible College, said one time when he was conducting a funeral the undertaker asked him what that verse meant. He asked "Are you a Christian?" The undertaker replied in the negative. "Then, you are a practical example of that verse!" The spiritually dead was burying the physically dead.

In the text in John, Peter was really told to FOLLOW JESUS REGARDLESS OF QUESTIONS. So many say, "If I could just understand . . . I would follow." Jesus was saying that your job is not to understand but your job is to FOLLOW! "Peter, don't bother yourself about what is going to happen to John. Don't fritter your time away about what will happen to somebody else. You will find profitable and healthful exercise in following me."

People often say if they could

just understand where Cain hid his wife; the great mystery predestination; all the symbolic teachings in Revelation; exactly what place Russia plays in prophecy, etc., etc., they would be so much wiser, better and useful. Frankly I doubt if God is going to pour into any one heart and mind a solution to lot of these problems; and I am sure that He only imparts wisdom TO THOSE WHO ALREADY TAKE HEED TO THIS ADMONITION "FOLLOW THOU ME." Step by step follow Him!

HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW HIM? You might begin by imitating Him in DOING GOOD. Acts 10: 38. Study His life and see wherein you may follow performing deeds of goodness helping the fallen and ministering kindly to them.

THEN YOU MAY FOLLOW HIM IN THE PRAYER LIFE. I readily recognize that such a desire is fraught with problems and hazards. Yet the fact is He prayed; He prayed earnestly; He prayed in agony. It is right that we should imitate Him in the prayer life as far as a child of God can do in the Covenant of Grace.

You may also FOLLOW HIM IN THE LIFE OF FORGIVENESS. That is exactly what Paul meant in Colossians 3: 13, "Forgive one another . . . as Christ forgave you, so also ye." God's children are to imitate others in this respect exactly as Jesus treated them! That is a high standard but "Follow me."

Of course, it goes without saying, that ONE MAY FOLLOW HIM IN A LIFE OF SELF-DENIAL. In this, too, one cannot go the limit of the sacrifice but they can follow the principle. In fact, no one can cherish a selfish motive and a self-serving attitude at the same time. No one can be a true disciple in practice who does not let himself be put on the altar of SACRIFICE at the times when the Lord demands.

"Follow me" and all else will fall into the proper place in your life. Here is the most noble ideal for a CHILD OF GOD. THE SIDE OF HEAVEN. Try it!

—Raymond Smith

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