

INTRODUCTION

My Dear Reader,

What I aim at in this booklet is that, by the blessing of God, you may be brought to accept Christ as your Saviour; or if you have already accepted Christ, that you may know surely that you have Eternal Life.

I am very anxious about the way in which you read it, that you may really profit by it.

1 Read it when you are alone with God, and not when others are bustling round about you.

2 Read it slowly. There is no use in hurrying over a booklet like this.

3 Read it prayerfully, asking God to make it the means of leading you to Christ.

4 Read it for yourself, and not for others. Apply it to yourself.

And before you have finished it, may you be able to say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." 2 Tim. 1: 12.

WILLIAM J. PATTON.

This booklet is chiefly composed of extracts from the famous book, "Pardon and Assurance" by Wm. J. Patton, of Dromara, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

This Booklet is Published by and obtainable from:

Revival Movement Association,
2 Clara Street, Belfast,
BT5 5GB., N. Ireland.

WHY CHRISTIANS ARE HAPPY

By William J. Patton

They are pardoned and saved. When a man sees that he has sinned against God thousands of times, and that his sins deserve hell - when he sees that Christ has loved him, and borne the punishment of all those sins, and they are now forgiven and forgotten, will he not rejoice? Does not a sailor rejoice when he is saved from a watery grave?

Reader - would you not be far happier if you knew that your sins were forgiven? At present you dare not think of death, or of the judgment, or of hell. When the Spirit of God brings these things to your remembrance, you try to drive them away. The Bible says: "Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

God loves Christians, and they love Him. What a joy to the Christian to know that he has Jesus, this loving Friend, with him every day and every hour, to guide and keep him, and to supply all his need. St. Peter said of Jesus: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Christians hold communion with God - talking to God, and God talking to them. What a pleasure the Christian often has in opening the Bible and saying: "Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth." And then what rapture there sometimes is in the great congregation, praising and adoring our Father in heaven, or sitting at the table of His Son with

great delight.

Christians are happy in overcoming sin, in pleasing God, and in doing good to their fellowmen. The Bible says: "In keeping God's commands there is great reward." When a Christian does these things to please Jesus Christ his Saviour, how much more joy they give!

HOW SWEET TO WORK ALL DAY FOR GOD

And when God makes a Christian the means of leading a soul to Jesus, and thus "converting a sinner from the error of his ways, and saving a soul from death," it gives a hundredfold more pleasure than the gratifying of any wicked desire. McCheyne said: "How sweet to work all day for God, and then rest beneath His smile."

Christians are happy in looking forward to heaven as their eternal home. To be forever in our Father's House, where are many mansions. To be where there is no sorrow or sighing or pain. To be forever with the Father who loved us, and with His Son who died for us, and to be with the Holy Spirit who brought us to the foot of the Cross. To be forever with the holy Angels who encamped round us on earth. To be with our dear friends who fell asleep in Jesus.

Christians are happy in death. Death is the Lord Jesus coming and taking them away home to Himself. Payson, when dying, said: "The Celestial City is full in my view. Its glories beam upon me, its breezes fan me, and its spirit is breathed into my heart."

CHRIST'S LOVE FOR SINNERS

In Luke 15 Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, who went after one lost sheep until he found it. Then he laid it upon his shoulders rejoicing, and called his friends to rejoice with Him, because He had found the sheep which was lost. Oh, that you would allow Him to carry you upon His shoulders today! He would rejoice, and He would call upon the angels to rejoice with Him. Luke 15 :10.

Jesus' love for sinners was seen in His life on earth. He who was in the form of God, for our sakes made Himself of no reputation, took on Him the form of a servant, was born of a virgin, and made in the likeness of men. Let us remember that He is still the same Jesus - "the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Look at the woman who was a sinner coming to Jesus (in Luke chapter 7). She washed His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Jesus did not cast her out. But, He said: "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven." This sinful woman who had turned from her sins to Jesus, was freely pardoned by His grace.

TODAY THOU SHALT BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

Look at Zacchaeus the taxgatherer and extortioner. He climbed up a sycamore tree because he wanted to see Jesus pass by. Jesus looked up and said - "Zacchaeus come down. This day is salvation come to thy house." Zacchaeus came down and he said: "Lord, whatever I have taken unjustly from any man I will restore unto him fourfold, and the half

of all that is left I will give to the poor." Here was evidence that his heart was changed, and his sins taken away. And Jesus is just the same today.

Look at Jesus on the day of His death. After He had been nailed to the cross He prayed: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." One of the wonders of that day was the conversion of the dying thief, who prayed: "Lord remember me, when THOU comest into Thy kingdom." Jesus' answer immediately was: "Verily, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." In the morning this man was in his sins; in the afternoon he was saved by Christ; in the evening he was with Christ in Paradise. He was justified, sanctified and made ready for heaven in a few hours. Oh the grace of the Lord Jesus to bad people!

Look at Jesus on Calvary. For whom did He die? Christ died, not for good people, but for the ungodly. Rom. 5: 6. The Bible says: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities and with His stripes we are healed. The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53: 5, 6.

Jesus bare our sins in His own body on the tree. I Peter 2: 24. The sufferings of His body during those hours were excruciating; but His chief sufferings were those of His soul. He became sin for us, He who knew no sin. And because of our sins which were laid on Him, His Father hid His face from Him, until he cried: "My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Oh, the Love of Christ for sinners! He suffered all this in order to save sinners.

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

Five years ago two men lived in this country. They are now both dead. One of them is in heaven, the other is in hell. What was the difference between them? The difference was that one of them was led to see that he was a sinner, and that Jesus was offered to him as his Saviour. He accepted Jesus as his Saviour, and thereafter lived a holy life. When he died, he went to heaven.

The other man resolved that some day he would accept Christ as Saviour, but he put off his decision. In the meantime he rejected the only Saviour. God cut him down in his sins, and now he is in hell bewailing his madness in neglecting so great Salvation. "You have time enough yet." This is Satan's greatest lie.

WHAT IS SIN ?

Let us look at sin in the light of the Bible; in the light of God's Holiness. When Isaiah saw His holiness he exclaimed: "Woe is me, for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts." God is a loving God, but His love is the love of a holy God. He has told us of a way through Christ in which He can pardon the guiltiest sinner. But He cannot pardon except through Christ.

Look at sin in the light of God's judgments on it. Glance over the Bible, and see how much God hates sin. The angels that fell into sin, He hurled them out of heaven, because He hates sin. He drove Adam and Eve out of Eden, because He hates sin. He held down the whole world under the Flood, till every soul was drowned, because He hates sin. And this world, which has been so polluted with sin, will be burned up with fervent heat one day. Why?

Because God hates sin.

Look at sin in the light of Eternal Punishment. In Matthew 25 Jesus said of a great company of people: "These shall go away into everlasting punishment." In the Bible the same word is used to describe the eternal suffering of the lost in hell, and the eternal bliss of God's people in Heaven. If one is not forever, neither is the other.

HOW LONG WILL IT BE ?

Have you ever thought of the length of Eternity? An eminent writer said: "Suppose some little insect were to carry this world by its tiny mouthfuls to the most distant star. Hundreds of millions of years are required for the performance of a single journey. The insect commences on the leaf of a tree, and takes its little load, and sets out upon its almost endless journey. After millions and millions of years have rolled away, it arrives back again for its second load. Oh, what ages must pass before one leaf be removed! In what period of coming time would the whole tree be borne away? When would the forest be gone? And when would that insect take the last particle of this globe and bear it away in its long, long journey? Even then Eternity would just have commenced." What is Eternal Punishment? It is the expression of God's hatred of sin.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

Look at sin in the light of Christ's death as an Atonement for sin. If anything less, or anything else, than the death of Christ could have atoned for sin, God would have spared His only begotten Son. Think of Him rending the air with

His cries, and wetting the sod with bloodstained sweat, as he cried three times over: "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt. What agony Jesus must have borne, when He - made strong by God to bear - cried out thus!

If it had been possible that this cup could pass from Him - that we, poor sinners, could have been saved without it, His cries would have been answered. But it was not possible. God must show His displeasure at sin, even when borne by His own Son. Therefore He hid His face from Him, until Jesus cried: "My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

Look at your sin in the light of God's goodness and love to you. If you strike an enemy, it is a sin. If you strike a friend, it is a greater sin. But if you lift your hand, and strike your loving father, it is a much greater sin still. How sinful then, must it be, for you to fight against so good a God as the Lord? Has He not showered upon you loving kindness, and tender mercies since you were born?

JESUS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART

Jesus has knocked at the door of your heart, wanting to come in, and bear away your guilt, and dwell in you by His Spirit, and make you holy! He has knocked by your mother's prayers. He knocked by your teacher's instructions. He knocked that time you were in earnest. He knocked again and again by the preaching of the Gospel. He knocked when some of your companions were

converted. He knocked when you were sick. How sinful your sin has been against such a good God, who has given you such opportunities.

Look especially at your sin in the light of what is implied in your rejection of Christ. The greatest sin of all - the damning sin - is that you will not come to Christ. God has sent His Son to seek and save you. He is so satisfied with the death of Christ for sinners, that it just delights Him to pardon sinners for Christ's sake. Yet up to this moment you have refused His Son. Oh that you saw the sin of rejecting Christ, of trampling under foot His blood, of rushing on to hell over His dead body - of saying: "No, I will not have you as my Saviour."

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." So Jesus told Nicodemus three times over one evening. Reader - Are you born again? Have you ever experienced a change which could be called a new birth? In the act of coming to Christ you are born again "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." John 1: 12

THE SOUL THAT IS LOST

The Bible says: "The wages of sin is death," and "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." The death spoken of here includes all that God inflicts upon a lost sinner in consequence of sin.

Every sinner is "condemned already," even while he lives. John 3:18. You are just like a man condemned to die for murder, and lying in jail waiting for the moment of execution. God's messenger, Death, may come soon to summon you.

God's wrath abideth upon you. John 3 : 36. God is angry with the wicked every day.

You are a child of the devil, and his slave. The devil is the great enemy of God and man. He goes about to ruin your body and soul. He is your master. You are doing day by day what the devil wishes you to do. And of all masters he is the most cruel.

You shall die some day, and it may be very soon and very suddenly. And what happens at death? Demons hover round the deathbed of the sinner, and as soon as he dies, they grasp him, and carry him away to the bottomless pit.

The day will come when you will hear the trumpet of God, and you will rise from your grave. If you have died without Christ your damned soul will be forced to enter into your damned body, and you will have to stand before the Lord in judgment.

God's book will be opened. Every wicked word you ever spoke and every wicked deed you ever did, will be read out before assembled worlds. And you will hear the voice of Jesus say: "Depart from Me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

AND IT WILL BE FOREVER

"These shall go away into everlasting punishment." Yes, you "shall go away" from your godly father and mother, away from your loved ones, away from your home, your Sabbaths, your meetings, - away - into everlasting punishment.

Let us think of some of the worms that will be gnawing at you in the place of torment. One worm will be your

wicked passions which will never be gratified in Hell.

Another worm will be your memory. You will remember times when you were not far from the kingdom of God. And now you are lost forever.

Another worm will be your companions in torment, horrible wicked creatures. You will meet there persons whom you led into sin, and they will curse you forever.

And it will be forever. This is the sting of the curse. The Bible says: "The smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever." If after millions of years there were any prospect of getting free, there would be hope in hell. But there will be none. There is no hope in hell. Oh, Eternity! Eternity! Have you ever thought of being in hell throughout an endless eternity?

AND WHAT THEN ?

One day in a university a young man was telling a professor of his plans for his future. He told him that he was going to study to be a lawyer. "What then?" asked the professor. "Then I will study for my doctor's degree." "What then?" "Then I will manage some difficult cases, and gain a great reputation." "What then?" "Then I shall be promoted to some high office, and grow rich." "And what then?" "Then I shall live in wealth and dignity." "What then?" "And then - and then - I shall die." Here the professor raised his voice, and asked aloud: "And what then?" The young man made no answer, but hung his head, and went away. Soon after he gave himself to Christ, and lived a holy and useful life.

14 BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

I want you to know what you get when you take Christ as your personal Saviour. Not what you get years after; but what you get as quickly as a flash of lightning, in the moment, when by faith you trust Jesus to be your Saviour. You get these to commence with and to carry you on your journey to heaven

1 - You get a full and free pardon of all your sins. Read Acts 13: 38, 39. "Through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things." "By Him" - by Christ. "All that believe" - not just some. "Are justified" - this means they are pardoned freely.

2 - Your sins are removed from you. God says that your sins are cast behind His back, where He does not see them. Isaiah 38:17. He says again: "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103 :12. How far is the east from the west? Further he says: "Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Heb. 10:17. Sins not only forgiven, but also forgotten. God says that you are cleansed "whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7.

3 - You are brought into God's favour. His anger is turned away and you are "accepted in the beloved." Eph. 1:6.

4 - All your sins are placed on Christ, and all His merits are made over to you, and you are "made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor. 5:21.

5 - You become a child of God - you get God as your Father. "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on

His name." John 1:12.

CALLED THE SONS OF GOD

6 - God loves you, and is delighted to guide and protect you, and to provide for you. Jesus prayed: "That the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them as Thou hast loved Me." John 17: 27. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." I John 3:1.

7 - You get God's Holy Spirit to dwell in you, and to enable you to live a holy life. Oh, weakest believer, God dwelleth in you. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you." I Cor. 3:16.

8 - You get a new heart and a new nature. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Ezek. 36: 26. He will enable you to know His will, and love His will, and to do His will.

9 - You get repentance and godly sorrow for sin. Acts 5:31. "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of Sins."

10 - You get power to love Christ. "We love Him because He first loved us." I John 4 :19. Love begets love. The more you see of His love to you, the more you will love Him.

11 - You will get power to pray in the name of Jesus. His merits are made over to you, and you can come to God in His name, and claim the fulfilment of His promises.

THE UNSEARCHABLE

RICHES OF CHRIST

12 - You get the power to do good works, and to please God. The first thing that you ever do that pleases God, is when you accept Christ as your Saviour. After that your works and service are pleasing to Him.

13 - You get the precious promises of the Bible as yours. "All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him amen, unto the glory of God by us." 2 Cor. 1:20. What riches are in these promises!

14 - You get everlasting life. Jesus said. "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 6: 47. You get heaven for your home. Jesus said: "In My Father's house are many mansions. I go to 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: 2,3.

All these blessings you get in the very moment when you trust in Christ as your Saviour. Paul speaks of the "unsearchable riches of Christ." What riches of colour, and perfume, and beauty lie hidden in a rosebud, to be unfolded in due time! And what unsearchable riches there are in Christ!

"Lord, without Thee we are poor, have what we may;
And with Thee we are rich, take what Thou wilt away."

SALVATION FREE TO ALL

When Noah's Ark was finished, he and his family had to

step into the Ark, or perish in the Flood. It was just a step, but it had to be taken.

When the Destroying Angel passed over Egypt, he passed by each door where the blood was sprinkled. So the blood of Christ must be sprinkled on your heart.

As the Burnt Offering was sacrificed to atone for sin, so we must honestly confess our sins to God, and lay them upon Jesus; otherwise we cannot be saved.

How do you get the death of Christ as an atonement for your sins? Just by taking it by faith, in simple dependence on His faithful promises. Jesus offers His death to you, this moment, as an atonement for all your sins.

Taking His offer of pardon simply means confessing your sins to Him, and then saying: "Lord Jesus, Thou dost offer Thy death to me to atone for my sins. Here and now I do accept Thine offer, I do take Thy death as an atonement for my sins, and I do take Thee as my Saviour."

One day a poor weak man was walking along a road carrying a heavy burden. By and by a strong man came along and said: "That burden is too heavy for you; give it to me and I will carry it for you, and I will give you rest from it." Then the poor weak man handed over the burden to the strong man. And so I was carrying the load of my sins, and Jesus came along and said: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain thee," and I just gave my load of sin to Him, and He has taken it.

If you seek Him in simple faith, soon you shall say with rejoicing: "I have found Him whom my soul loveth. Read

the promises in 2 Cor. 5: 20, 21. Jesus was made sin for us - We are made the righteousness of God in Him - God beseeches us be reconciled to Him - Jesus prays for us. What promises to encourage you to receive by faith the gift of God which is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GROUNDLESS FEARS

You may be tempted to think, "My sins are too great to be forgiven." But think of the sufferings of Christ, and believe what God says: "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

Think of I Cor. 6:9,10. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." What a black catalogue! !

But do not stop there. Read on: "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." While these verses remain in the Bible never despair of your own salvation, or of the salvation of any man alive. Think no longer of what you are, but think of what a wonderful Saviour Jesus is.

THE MOMENT OF TRUST

Not long ago I was walking along with a young man. I asked him how he was led to Christ, and he told me: "A cousin wrote to me, asking me to visit her home, and I

went. My cousin did not talk directly to me about my soul; but she told me how another young woman had been brought to Christ. Tom, she said to me, this young woman was really anxious to be saved, but she found that she could not save herself by all her doings and efforts.

“Then she saw that Jesus was wounded for her transgressions and bruised for her iniquities, and that He had borne her sins in His own body on the tree. She saw that she would not have to bear the punishment for her sins, if she were willing to let the Lord bear it for her. Jesus had finished the work.

“She found that she had only to pray, Thank Thee, Lord Jesus, I do take Thy death to atone for my sins, and I do take Thee to be my Saviour. She just rested on Christ, and His death for pardon, and you should have seen how happy she was in Jesus.

“Later she said, Now, Tom, would you not like to know that your sins are forgiven? I was downright in earnest to be saved. We got down upon our knees and she prayed. Soon I really believed that I was resting upon Christ, and I felt almost impelled to rise from my knees and say, I believe! I believe! But the devil seemed to whisper, Don't make a fool of yourself - it is all a delusion - a mere emotion - a passing excitement.

“Then the Spirit of God began to work in my heart again, and to show that Christ was willing to take my sins, and save me. I sprang to my feet and said, I believe! I believe! My cousin rose also, and rejoiced with me in the Saviour.

"Then she began to tell me of the devices of the devil, and how he would try to deceive me. Tom, she said, tomorrow morning, the devil will be sure to tell you that it was all a delusion. There is nothing like a text of Scripture when you are fighting with the devil. Tell him 'Christ, His own self, bare our sins in His own body on the tree' (I Peter 2: 24), or 'Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out' (John 6: 37) Tell him that you do rely on Christ, and that you will rely on Christ.

"Again she said that the devil would be sure to suggest wicked thoughts to my mind, and then tell me I was just as bad as ever. She said, too, that the devil would tell me that I would certainly fall. And I was to tell him that it was quite true that I could not stand of myself but that my Saviour Jesus had promised that He would keep me from falling (Jude 24), and that 'His name was called Jesus, because He shall save His people from their sins' (Matt. 1: 21).

"Later I told my brother all I had been taught about Jesus, and it was not long until he was converted, and we have been a great comfort to each other ever since. My young sister, who has since died, was soon brought to Christ also."

Now, my dear reader, do you see that God is so satisfied with the death of Christ upon the Cross for sinners, that He is willing to pardon you this moment for Christ's sake. You don't need to do a thing to atone for your sins, if you are willing to accept Christ. Christ is just now beside you, praying you to let Him take your sins and carry them for you.

Oh, do what He bids you - "Come unto Me, all ye that

labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11: 28). Come to Him now.

THE BIBLE

This Book contains: - The mind of God, the state of man, the way of Salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of Believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

HOLINESS BY FAITH IN JESUS

Sanctification is the work of God's Spirit dwelling in the heart. But how does God's Spirit do this? By turning the eye of the believer to his living, loving Saviour. At the end of Romans, chapter seven Paul asks: "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Then comes the answer: "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

You remember how you were converted. It was the work of God's Spirit: He turned your eye to Jesus dying upon the cross for sinners and He showed you how willing He was to save you. And at the moment when you were converted you were thinking about Christ.

And just so when the Spirit of God sanctifies, He turns our eyes to Jesus. Paul did not ask what shall deliver me.

There is no what that can deliver us, but there is a Who - a living, loving Saviour who can, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The same truth is taught in I Cor. 1: 30. We are in Christ, and Christ is in us. We have no wisdom, but Christ is our wisdom. We have no righteousness, but Christ's righteousness is as free to us as the sunshine. We have no source of holiness in ourselves, but Christ is our sanctification, and redemption.

At the moment when you were enabled to accept Christ, you were made one with Christ. Christ died, and you in Him. Christ lives, and you in Him. Reckon yourself dead unto sin, and risen with Christ. Put on Christ. Let Him live in you. Commune with Him. Love Him. Abide in Him, and sin will fall off from you. The soul which has Christ in it is emancipated: it is free.

JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

Christ is the True Vine, and you are a branch. John 15. It just delights the vine to give life and strength to the branch. The branch does not grow and bear fruit by great efforts and struggles. It simply abides in the vine, and draws strength and nourishment from the root. So Christ delights to give us - His branches - grace and strength every moment.

Jesus is here, and He has purchased the fullness of His Spirit for each of us. It just delights Him to fill us every moment. He commands us: "Be filled with the Spirit," and He wants to fill us now. Should we not believe, feeling or no feeling, that He does fill us? If we would act thus, it would not be long till God would give us experiences far

beyond anything we now enjoy.

Here we come to the use of means. We shall never be kept depending on Christ day by day, and hour by hour, unless we use the means of grace. We should connect ourselves with some evangelical church where the Gospel is faithfully preached. We should attend its services and take part in its Christian work. We should go to the Lord's Table as often as we have opportunity. We must not run into places of temptation, nor make companions of those whose company does us harm.

And we must regularly read our Bibles with prayer. George Muller, in every address he gives, tries to impress upon his hearers the great importance of reading the Bible with prayer. In fact we cannot grow in grace without this. This then is the secret of holiness - a lifelong look at Jesus Christ.

HOW TO HAVE ASSURANCE

Assurance of salvation is the work of God's Spirit. "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Rom. 8:16. The way to get assurance is by looking directly at Jesus -and coming to Him - as He is revealed in the Bible.

Duncan Matheson said: "I was enabled to take God at His word. I saw no one but Jesus only, and as all in all in redemption. My burden fell from my back, and I was saved. I could not contain myself for joy. I sang the New Song, Salvation through the Blood of the Lamb. I felt the calm of a pardoned sinner. I saw only the person of Jesus. I wept for my sin that had nailed Him to the Cross, and they were tears of true repentance."

“His for ever, only His;
Who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss
Christ can fill the loving heart!”

HEAVEN - OUR HOME

Evangelist W. P. NICHOLSON

Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” John 14:2. There is no other subject that inflames the heart and fires the imagination more than the subject of Heaven. Are we weary with life’s battles and struggles? Isn’t it grand to know that soon we shall be in Heaven where there will never be another fight or struggle, and where we can never be weary again.

Heaven is a place of Brightness. There will be no night there. It is one long eternal day. The Lord is the light of Heaven. That bright land has never been dimmed by sorrow. They are dressed in garments of white up there. Pain is unknown there, none escape it here. Many have pain at the heart worse than any physical pain - a child gone astray in sin. Can anyone fathom the pain such as a mother endures.

Then Heaven is so bright that no eye will ever be dimmed by tears. There will be no curse there. How many are cursed by sin here. Thank God! we are going to a world

where the curse and blight of sin are forever done away with. Heaven is also a place of Happiness. We read of choirs singing, and the redeemed singing, "Unto Him that loved us and loosed us from our sins in His own blood."

CHILDREN IN HEAVEN

Dr. Guthrie of Edinburgh, says, "Heaven is greatly made up of little children. 'Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven,' how soothing are these words by the cradle of a dying infant. They fall like balmdrops on our bleeding hearts, when we watch the ebbing of that young life, till, with a gentle sigh, our sweet child leaves its body, and ascends to the beatitudes of Heaven, and the bosom of its God."

Heaven is also a place of Consciousness. Here we know each other very imperfectly. We shall know each other better when the mists have rolled away. Peter recognised Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. When good Queen Victoria was dying, she was heard to say, "Albert, Albert." Her husband who had died years before, was near her. A lady told me when her little child was passing away, she cried, "Papa, Papa." The father had gone before some time.

NEW JERUSALEM - THE HEAVENLY CITY

What a city that will be! No slums or saloons there. No hospitals or jails. No poor or oppressed ones. The very things that curse our great cities here, will be absent in Heaven. The City which God has prepared is as imperishable in its inhabitants, as it is in its materials. Its pearl, its jasper, its pure gold, are only immortal to frame the abode of

immortals. No cry of death is in any of its dwellings. No funerals darken any of its ways. No sepulchres of the holiest relics gleam among the everlasting hills.

The streets of the Heavenly City are of pure gold. Its homes are mansions, its inhabitants are holy and happy. It was not built with hands, and it will not grow hoary with the years of time. It is a City whose inhabitants no census has numbered; and through whose streets no tide of business runs. It is a City without griefs or graves, without sins or sorrows, without births or burials, without marriages or mournings. It is a City which glories in having Jesus for its King, angels for its guards, saints for its citizens; and whose walls are Salvation, and whose Gates are Praise.

GOD'S PENITENTIARY

By W. P. NICHOLSON

In these civilised lands of ours we have large prisons. What a shame it is to put men and women in such places of torment, robbing them of their liberties and privileges; separating men from their homes and families, and bringing pain and shame on their friends. Many a time men are in jail because they have committed one crime, and some of them we hang.

We have large asylums all over the land. Thousands of people are kept there against their will. Isn't it a shame to have such places, and to treat people like that. You would look with pity on me if I talked like this, and wonder where I came from. You would say, "Don't you know that these people are lawbreakers and insane? It is for their own good and the safety of the country and the people that we put them there."

Do you think we have more sense than God? Who are the people who go to hell? They are men and women who rebelled against God and refused to be saved by the blood of His Son. What else can God do with them but put them in prison? Surely a man is mad who damns his own soul by wilfully rejecting Jesus Christ as his Saviour, Men and women, hell is God's penitentiary; hell is God's madhouse. If you continue to rebel against God. God has a jail for you; and if you are so foolish as to refuse His salvation, God has an asylum for you.

Let me give you some of the terms used by God to describe the nature of this place: "A lake of Fire" - A bottomless pit - A devouring fire - A place of sorrows - Where they wail - A place of weeping - A furnace - A place of torments - Everlasting burnings - A place of filthiness - Where they curse God - Everlasting destruction - A place of outer darkness - Where they have no rest - Everlasting punishment - Where they gnaw their tongue - A place prepared for the devil and his angels - Where they cry for a drop of water - Tormented with fire and brimstone - Hell fire - Hell - Wrath to come.

If God had not been love He might have made the way to hell easy and fast, but he has hedged the way there with thorns and barriers, and a man must work hard to get there. He has to stifle conscience again and again. He has to trample over the tears and prayers of God's people. He has to silence God's Word, quench the Holy Spirit, and trample underfoot the precious blood of Christ; all this before he succeeds in damning his soul forever.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE

CHRISTIAN LIFE

by DR. R. A. TORREY

There are two classes of persons who start out in the Christian life: those who make a complete or partial failure of it and those who make a complete success of it. The question at once suggests itself: "Is it possible to point out a plain pathway, in which any one who will, can walk, and following which will make success absolutely sure? I believe it is. I believe that God's Word gives a few simple instructions which if followed will make success in the Christian life a certainty. There are seven steps in the path marked out in the Bible.

1. BEGIN RIGHT. What a right beginning is we see in John 1:12, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Receive Christ. Take Him as your Saviour who died for your sin. Trust the whole matter of your forgiveness to Him. Rest upon the fact that he has paid the full penalty of your sin.

2 Cor. 5: 21, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." Gal. 3 :13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

It is in this first step that many make a mistake. They try to mix in their good works as a ground of salvation. They think if they are good God will forgive them, because of Christ's death and their goodness.

Take Him as your Deliverer, the one who will save you

from the power of sin, who will quicken you when dead in trespasses and sins. Don't try to save yourself from the power of sin. Trust Him to do it.

Take Him as your Master. Don't seek to guide your own life. Surrender unconditionally to His lordship over you. Say, "All for Jesus." Many fail, because they shrink back from this entire surrender. They wish to serve Jesus with half their heart, and part of themselves, and part of their possessions: It is a wretched life of stumbling and failure, this life of half-hearted surrender. It is a joyous life all along the way, the life of entire surrender.

If you have never done it before and wish "to make a success of the Christian life," go alone with God, get down on your knees, and say, "All for Jesus." Say it very earnestly; say it from the bottom of your heart. Stay there until you realize what it means and what you are doing. It is a wondrous step forward when one really takes it.

If you have taken it already, take it again. Take it often. It always has fresh meaning and brings fresh blessedness.

Taking Christ as your Master involves obedience to His will, as far as you know it in each smallest detail of life. This is one of the most essential conditions of receiving "the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him." Acts 5:32.

2. CONFESS CHRIST OPENLY BEFORE MEN. Matt. 10: 32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven." Rom. 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The life of confession is the life of full

salvation. It is when we confess Christ before men that He confesses us before "My Father in Heaven," and that the fullness of His blessing comes.

It does not mean that we are to confess Christ just once, as for example, when we unite with the Church, but constantly. The one who would make the largest success of the Christian life should seize every opportunity of confessing Christ before men - in the home, in shopping, at work, in the church, everywhere.

I once heard a wise old preacher say, "If we make a good deal of Christ, He will make a great deal of us." How many fell away from Christ at this point! They went to a new city, or a new place to work, and neglected to confess Christ, and now they are back in the world.

3. **STUDY THE WORD.** I Pet. 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." The Word of God is the soul's food. It is the nourishment of the new life. One who neglects the Word cannot make much of a success of the Christian life. All who get on in the Christian life are great feeders on the Word of God. Here many fail. Ask any backslider, "Have you fed on the Word daily?" I never have found one that could say that he had.

Two points on Bible reading are: first, read for food for your own soul; second, read a great deal on your knees. The Bible has become in some measure a new book to me since I have taken to reading it on my knees.

4. **"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING."** I Thess. 5:17. The one who would succeed in the Christian life must lead a life of prayer. That is easy enough if you only set about it.

Have set times for prayer. The rule of David and Daniel, three times a day, is a good rule.

Ps. 55: 17, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice." Dan. 6: 10, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house: and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

Begin the day with thanksgiving and prayer - thanksgiving for the definite mercies of the past, prayer for the definite needs of the present day. Stop in the midst of the bustle and worry and temptation of the day for thanksgiving and prayer. Close the day with thanksgiving and prayer.

Then there should be the special prayer in special temptation - when we see the temptation approaching. Keep looking to God "Pray without ceasing." It is not needful to be on our knees all the time. But the heart should be on its knees all the time. If "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees," let us keep him trembling all the time. We should be often on our knees, literally. This is a joyous life, free from worry and care. Here is the point (neglect of prayer) where many fail.

There are three things for which the one who would make a success of the Christian life must especially pray: first, for wisdom, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God," James 1:5, second, for strength, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength," Is. 40:31; third, for the Holy Spirit, "Your heavenly Father shall give the

Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." You should with each new emergency of Christian work pray to God for a new filling with the Holy Spirit. Acts 4:31.

5. GO TO WORK FOR CHRIST. Matt. 25: 29, "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." Note the context, and you will see that this means, those who use what they have will get more, and those who let what they have lie idle will lose even that.

The working Christian, the one who uses his talents, whether few or many, in Christ's service, is the one who gets on in the Christian life here, and who will hereafter hear the, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Find some work to do for Christ and do it. Seek for work. If it is nothing more than distributing tracts or invitations to meetings, do it. Always be looking for something more to do for Christ, and you will always be receiving something more from Christ.

6. GIVE LARGELY. Prov. 11: 25, "The liberal soul shall be made fat." II Cor. 9: 6, 8, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

Success and growth in Christian life depends on few things more than upon liberal giving. A stingy Christian cannot be a growing Christian. It is wonderful how a

Christian man begins to grow when he begins to give. Give systematically.

Set aside for Christ a fixed proportion of all the money or goods you get. Be exact and honest about it. Don't use it for yourself under any circumstances. A tenth is a good proportion to begin with. Don't let it be less than that. After you have given your tenth you will probably soon learn the joy of giving freewill offerings in addition to the tenth.

7. KEEP PUSHING ON. Phil. 3: 13, 14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Forget that which lies behind; press on to the better things that lie before.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Forget the sins which lie behind. If you fail anywhere, if you fall, don't be discouraged, don't give up, don't brood over the sin. Confess it instantly. Believe God's Word. I John 1: 9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Believe the sin is forgiven; forget it; press on. Satan beguiles many a poor soul here. He keeps us brooding over our failures and sins. He even makes us think this is humility, as if it were humility to doubt God's Word and make Him a liar by not believing the sin is forgiven and put away, when He says it is.

Forget the achievements and victories of the past and

press on to greater. Here Satan cheats many of us out of the larger life. He keeps us thinking so much of what we have already obtained and makes us so contented with it and so puffed up over it that we come to a standstill, or even backslide. There is always something better ahead until we "come . . . unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:13.

THE SAVIOUR AND THE SINNER

THE SINNER

The wages of sin is death Rom. 6: 23.

God be merciful to me a sinner. Luke 18: 13.

What must I do to be saved? Acts 16: 30.

THE SAVIOUR

The gift of God is eternal life. Rom. 6: 23.

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.

THE SINNER

I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42: 6.

Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Psalm 51: 9.

THE SAVIOUR

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions,

and, as a cloud, thy sins; return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee. Isaiah 44:22

THE SINNER

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11.

THE SAVIOUR

Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. John 6: 37

THE SINNER

All we like sheep have gone astray. Isaiah 53: 6.

THE SAVIOUR

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. Luke 15:4,5.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19: 10

THE SINNER

Shew me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths. Psalm 27 :9

THE SAVIOUR

Search the Scriptures. John 5:39.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Tim. 3:16.

THE SINNER

Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous

things out of Thy law. Psalm 119:18.

Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. Psalm 27:9

THE SAVIOUR

I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Heb. 13:5.

Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jer. 31:3.

Lovest thou Me? John 21:17.

THE SINNER

Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee. John 21:17.

THE SAVIOUR

If ye love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34.

THE SINNER

To will is present with me but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Rom. 7:18, 19.

THE SAVIOUR

My grace is sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Cor. 12:9.

THE SINNER

Lord, increase our faith. Luke 17:5.

THE SAVIOUR