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By S. RIDOUT.

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Past, Present, and Future.

ONCE more we stand at the point of division in our lives. The past year, our past life, is all behind us; before us lies the unknown future, all open before the eye of God; and just at hand is the present moment—all that we can really call our own. For the Christian, as he looks backward, the Cross spreads its arms of peace—"peace by the blood of His cross"—over the whole record, dark though it be with countless sins. The future stretches out into that boundless brightness of heaven's day, where there is no stain, no clog to the fulness of joy. The present, with all its circumstances, whether of joy or sorrow, lies just at hand, full of golden opportunities.

As we look backward, there is many a humbling lesson to be learned; forward all is bright; may it be ours to make good use of the present which God puts into our hand. It would not do us good to know the future, as to the present life; its trials in anticipation might overwhelm us, and unfit us for the duties of the present; its joys might beget carelessness. It is enough for us to accept the *present* as a responsibility from God, and in the power of His grace to meet those responsibilities aright. Thus we will live to the praise of our Lord Jesus who has died for us and risen again.

How He Surrendered.

CHARLES SIMEON, when young, read in a book that the Jews knew what they did, when they transferred their sin to the head of their offering. The thought rushed into his mind—"What! may I transfer all my guilt to another? Has God provided an offering for me, that I may lay my sins on His head! Then, God willing, I will not bear them on my own soul one moment longer; for I see that *God laid my sins on Jesus.*"

—Selected.

A Well of Water.

AN old Christian servant was ill, and was visited by his young mistress, who asked if she should read to him. He willingly said, Yes.

"What shall I read, Parker?"

"The fourth chapter of John, if you please, Miss."

As she read, old Parker made running comments. When she came to the thirteenth and following verses, the old man said,

"And there, Miss, was a great transaction."

"What do you mean, Parker?" said she.

"Why, Miss, the Lord Jesus, without pick or shovel, dug a well in that woman's heart, deeper than Jacob's well, and filled it with Himself, and it has been running ever since."

Yes, thank God, that water is still flowing; and the Lord Jesus still waits to dig a well in the heart of every poor sinner that knows his need.

"Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Appropriation.

MANY believe that Christ is the Saviour, that through His cross peace has been made, and that God desires the salvation of the sinner; and yet they have a difficulty—"Can I say He is *my* Saviour? that He died for *me*? that *I* am saved?"

There is a subtle form of self-righteousness here. The soul is still looking for something *within* to rest upon, instead of owning the wondrous grace of God. Have I learned that I am a *sinner*, guilty, vile, helpless? It was for *sinners*, just such as that—without a single good thing about them—that Christ came and died. If you know you are a sinner, you are welcome to Christ and all that He is.

"WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY."

JANUARY.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH

John, Hosea.

Moon's phases	{	Last Q 3	New 10	First Q 17	Full 24
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31 Days.

Ref.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1-S. In the beginning God..... | Gen. 1. 1 |
| 2-S. He showed unto them His hands and His side | Jno. 20. 20 |
| 3-M. Thou...art acquainted with all my ways..... | Ps. 139. 3 |
| 4-Tu. Emmanuel....God with us..... | Mt. 1. 23 |
| 5-W. I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee..... | Heb. 13. 5 |
| 6-Th. The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me..... | 2 Tim. 4. 17 |
| 7-F. I will be with him in trouble..... | Ps. 91. 15 |
| 8-S. I will that they...be with Me where I am..... | Jno. 17. 24 |
| 9-S. The Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me . | Gal. 2. 20 |
| 10-M. Put away from thee a froward mouth..... | Prov. 4. 24 |
| 11-Tu. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt..... | Col. 4. 6 |
| 12-W. We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.. | Acts 4. 20 |
| 13-Th. I will keep thee in all places whither thou goest..... | Gen. 28. 15 |
| 14-F. To go by day and night..... | Ex. 13. 21 |
| 15-S. Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord..... | Is. 43. 10 |
| 16-S. Why hast Thou forsaken Me? . . . Thou art holy . . . | Ps. 22. 1, 3 |
| 17-M. Beware lest thou forget the Lord..... | Deut. 6. 12 |
| 18-Tu. Ye did run well: who did hinder you?..... | Gal. 5. 7 |
| 19-W. Fellow-helpers to the truth..... | 3 Jno. 8 |
| 20-Th. Keep yourselves in the love of God..... | Jude 21 |
| 21-F. An inheritance incorruptible, undefiled..... | 1 Pet. 1. 4 |
| 22-S. The exceeding riches of His grace..... | Eph. 2. 7 |
| 23-S. I am alive forevermore..... | * Rev. 1. 18 |
| 24-M. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..... | Jas. 1. 5 |
| 25-Tu. As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men..... | Gal. 6. 10 |
| 26-W. The called of Jesus Christ..... | Rom. 1. 6 |
| 27-Th. It is more blessed to give than to receive..... | Acts 20. 35 |
| 28-F. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy..... | Ps. 126. 5 |
| 29-S. Be not faithless, but believing..... | John 20. 27 |
| 30-S. My Lord and my God..... | John 20. 28 |
| 31-M. Come...let us go to Gilgal..... | 1 Sam. 11. 14 |

“No more use for it.”

AN evangelist was once preaching in the city of New York, setting forth the precious fulness of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice upon the cross for every repentant sinner. Suddenly a tall, thin, haggard-looking man arose in the crowd and, reaching behind his neck, brought out a belt garnished with points which he had worn upon his bare back, for mortification of his body, in view of atonement for his sins and making his peace with God. “Here, sir,” he exclaimed, before the audience, “you may take this belt with which I have mutilated myself to obtain peace with God. I have no use for it any more. *Jesus has paid my debt, and made my peace with God*”;—and he tendered the instrument of torture toward the evangelist before the awe-stricken crowd.

Reader, can *you* say, “Jesus has paid my debt and made my peace with God”? and do you thank and praise Him for it?

Counsel and Example for Christian Young Men.

“Trust in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”



(Prov. 3 : 5, 6.)

“My son, if sinners entice thee, *consent thou not*” (Prov. 1 : 10).



“But Daniel *purposed in his heart* that he would not defile himself with the king's meat.

“Now GOD had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.”

“GOD gave them knowledge in all learning and wisdom” (Dan. 1 : 8, 9, 17).



“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Prov. 13 : 20).

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men” (Prov. 22 : 29).

FEBRUARY.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH
Romans, Daniel.

Moon's phases {	Last Q	New	First Q	Full
	1	9	16	23

28 Days.

Ref.

- 1-Tu. The Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land.....Deut. 8. 7
 2-W. Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...Gal. 5. 1
 3-Th. We can do nothing against the truth.....2 Cor. 13. 8
 4-F. Beloved, follow not that which is evil.....3 John 11
 5-S. Looking for the mercy of our Jesus Christ.....Jude 21
- 6-S. Unto Him that loveth us, and washed us from our sins . . Rev. 1. 5
 7-M. Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope.....1 Pet. 1. 13
 8-Tu. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation.....Jas. 1. 12
 9-W. Pray for us; for we trust we have a good conscience.....Heb. 13. 18
 10-Th. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.....Gal. 5. 25
 11-F. Good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them. Eph. 2. 10
 12-S. Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?.....Rom. 6. 1
- 13-S. It is finished.....John 19. 30
 14-M. The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich.....1 Sam. 2. 7
 15-Tu. Blessed are they that mourn.....Mt. 5. 4
 16-W. Comfort ye My people, saith your God.....Is. 40. 1
 17-Th. The Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.....2 Cor. 1. 3
 18-F. That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble. 2 Cor. 1. 4
 -19-S. By love serve one another.....Gal. 5. 13
- 20-S. Where two or three are gathered . . in My name, there am I.
 21-M. Man's goings are of the Lord.....Prov. 20. 24. [Mt. 18. 20
 22-Tu. Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me.....Ps. 25. 5
 23-W. Make straight paths for your feet.....Heb. 12. 13
 24-Th. Let us run with patience...looking unto Jesus.....Heb. 12. 1, 2
 25-F. He that abideth in Me, and I in him...bringeth forth much fruit. John 15. 5
 26-S. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.....Col. 3. 16
- 27-S. The bread which we break . . the communion of the body of Christ.
 28-M. Remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee. Deut. 8. 2 [1 Cor. 10. 16

If only I were one of His Sheep.

A DEAR girl on a bed of sickness was most anxious to be saved. A friend, knowing her distress, sent her a Scripture text-card through the post. Slowly she read :

"I give unto them [My sheep] eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand" (John 10: 28).

As she sank back on the pillow, she said, "If I were only one of His sheep I should be happy." However as the card fell on the coverlet it turned over, and displayed a text on the other side. Taking it again she read :—

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1: 15).

"Oh!" she said, as this glorious gospel verse enlightened her soul: "If I'm not a sheep, I'm a *sinner*, and Christ Jesus came to save *sinners*." There she trusted Him; there He received her. Then she learned that the blessed Saviour of sinners is the Shepherd of the sheep, and in perfect safety He keeps all whom He saves.

Sel.

Counsel and Example for Christian Young Women.

"Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart; . . . the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Pet. 3: 4, 5).



"Greet Mary, who bestowed much labor on us" (Rom. 16: 6).



"Dorcas . . . was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did"

(Acts 9: 36).



"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons"

(Mark 16: 9).

MARCH.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH

Ezekiel.

Moon's phases { Last Q 3 New 11 First Q 17 Full 25

31 Days	Ref.
1-Tu. I am Alpha and Omega.....	Rev. 1. 8
2-W. Whom having not seen, ye love.....	1 Pet. 1. 8
3-Th. Let patience have her perfect work.....	Jas. 1. 4
4-F. They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh.....	Gal. 5. 24
5-S. God....hath quickened us together with Christ.....	Eph. 2. 5
6-S. Christ died for the ungodly.....	Rom. 5. 6
7-M. He will keep the feet of His saints.....	1 Sam. 2. 9
8-Tu. My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.....	Mt. 3. 17
9-W. Consider your ways.....	Hag. 1. 5
10-Th. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.....	Is. 40. 31
11-F. Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.....	1 Cor. 1. 2
12-S. To me to live is Christ.....	Phil. 1. 21
13-S. Forthwith came there out blood and water.....	John 19. 34
14-M. Overcome evil with good.....	Rom. 12. 21
15-Tu. Ever follow that which is good.....	1 Thess. 5. 15
16-W. Let all your things be done with charity.....	1 Cor. 16. 14
17-Th. If a man be overtaken in a fault.... restore such an one.....	Gal. 6. 1
18-F. Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.....	" "
-19-S. First cast out the beam out of thine own eye.....	Mt. 7. 5
20-S. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....	Heb. 10. 25
21-M. Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.....	Jas. 1. 22
22-Tu. I will feed them in a good pasture.....	Ezek. 34. 14
23-W. Thy paths drop fatness.....	Ps. 65. 11
24-Th. Answer not a fool according to his folly.....	Prov. 26. 4
25-F. Answer a fool according to his folly.....	Prov. 26. 5
26-S. Jesus gave him no answer.....	Jno. 19. 9
27-S. His sweat was as it were great drops of blood.....	Lk. 22. 44
28-M. The world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.....	Gal. 6. 14
29-Tu. Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.....	Eph. 5. 2
30-W. To wait for His Son from heaven.....	1 Thess. 1. 10
31-Th. Lacked ye anything?.... Nothing.....	Lk. 22. 35

Found (Matt. 18 : 12).

F GOD, through Christ the living way,
My Father and my God—

So near, and I so far astray,
Brought nigh Thee by His blood.

Myself, and this, and that, I sought
Behind, around, before—
And yet the nearest found I not,
Until I sought no more.

O Love! Thou deep eternal tide,
How dear are men to Thee!
The Father's heart is opened wide
By Jesus' blood to me.

It was Thyself, O God, who sought,
With tender yearnings deep,
The loveless soul who sought Thee not—
The worthless, wandering sheep.

I come, yet leave myself behind,
And thus unfearing come;
For all I sought, but did not find,
I find in Thee alone.

I come—Thine open arms enfold
And welcome me within!
Let others work to bring their gold,
I only bring my sin.

Thou bringest love and gladness forth
From Thine exhaustless store,
To me, deserving but Thy wrath,
Thy joy for evermore.

And now with magnet force led on,
I reach the inmost rest—
The nameless rapture of the son
Upon the Father's breast.

G. T. S.

APRIL.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH

Luke, Joel, Amos.

Moon's phases { Last Q 2 New 9 First Q 16 Full 24

30 Days

Ref.

- 1-F. Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things. 1 Pet. 1. 18
 2-S. But with the precious blood of Christ. " " 19
 3-S. The God of peace. Heb. 13. 20
 4-M. The peace of God. Phil. 4. 7
 5-Tu. The Father of lights. no variableness. Jas. 1. 17
 6-W. By grace are ye saved. Eph. 2. 8
 7-Th. The Lord make you to increase. in love. 1 Thess. 3. 12
 8-F. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Rom. 1. 16
 9-S. He bringeth low, and lifteth up. 1 Sam. 2. 7
 10-S. Why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? John 20. 15
 11-M. Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. Mt. 4. 19
 12-Tu. The everlasting God. fainteth not. Is. 40. 28
 13-W. Stretch forth thy hand. And his hand was restored. Mk. 3. 5
 14-Th. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil. 4. 13
 15-F. The law. weak through the flesh. Rom. 8. 3
 -16-S. No confidence in the flesh. Phil. 3. 3
 17-S. Consider the Apostle and High Priest. Heb. 3. 1
 18-M. Beholding the glory of the Lord. changed into the same image. 2 Cor. 3. 18
 19-Tu. To walk, even as He walked. 1 John 2. 6
 20-W. My refuge is in God. Ps. 62. 7
 21-Th. I will both search My sheep and seek them out. Ezek. 34. 11
 22-F. Happy is the man that feareth always. Prov. 28. 14
 23-S. My kindness shall not depart from thee. Is. 54. 10
 24-S. Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me. Lk. 22. 42
 25-M. Nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done. " " "
 26-Tu. That ye would walk worthy of God. 1 Thess. 2. 12
 27-W. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye. 1 Pet. 4. 14
 28-Th. His God gave him rest round about. 2 Chron. 20. 30
 29-F. He will rest in His love. Zeph. 3. 17
 30-S. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Heb. 4. 9

Three Great Landmarks.

(1) The Sheltering Blood.

"When I see the BLOOD, I will pass over you" (Ex. 12: 13).

"Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Cor. 5: 7).

(2) Deliverance through the Red Sea.

"Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians" (Ex. 14: 30).

"Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world" (Gal. 1: 4).

(3) Entrance into the Inheritance through Jordan.

"All the Israelites passed over on dry ground" (Joshua 3: 17).

"God hath . . . made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2: 6).

Mark how each landmark is based upon Christ alone. It is the blood that shelters the guilty sinner, who believes, in the place exposed to judgment. It is not his worthiness, nor his good works, nor his promises; nothing but the *blood* that gives safety.

The *death* of our Lord and His *resurrection* has opened a plain way for His people to leave this evil world, and the prince of darkness which controls the unsaved, and to walk in the liberty which the Holy Spirit gives.

That same death has opened the way into our inheritance. All who are in Christ, are in Him in the heavenlies; they have entered into their portion, and it is now theirs to make use of the boundless portion which is thus freely given them.

All the Rocks.

A PILOT was once asked if he knew all the rocks along the coast. "No," said he, "it is not necessary to know all the rocks, only to know the safe channel."

MAY.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH
Acts, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah.

Moon's phases { Last Q 2, 31 New 8 First Q 15 Full 23

31 Days.

Ref.

- 1-S. That your faith and hope might be in God..... 1 Pet. 1. 21
2-M. A doubleminded man is unstable in all his ways..... Jas. 1. 8
3-Tu. This one thing I do..... Phil. 3. 13
4-W. Let us not be weary in well doing..... Gal. 6. 9
5-Th. Laboring, ye ought to support the weak..... Acts 20. 35
6-F. Your faith is spoken of..... Rom. 1. 8
7-S. Ye are our glory and joy..... 1 Thess. 2. 20
8-S. Redemption through His blood..... Eph. 1. 7
9-M. They that stumbled are girded with strength..... 1 Sam. 2. 4
10-Tu. Healing all manner of sickness..... Mt. 4. 23
11-W. To whom then will ye liken God?..... Is. 40. 18
12-Th. The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..... John 1. 14
13-F. Master, where dwellest Thou?..... John 1. 38
14-S. Come and see..... John 1. 39
15-S. I ascend unto My Father, and your Father..... John 20. 17
16-M. If ye be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above... Col. 3. 1
17-Tu. Partakers of the heavenly calling..... Heb. 3. 1
18-W. If so be that we suffer with Him....glorified together..... Rom. 8. 17
19-Th. Account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation..... 2 Pet. 3. 15
20-F. My soul, wait thou only upon God..... Ps. 62. 5
21-S. Go not forth hastily to strive..... Prov. 25. 8
22-S. With desire I have desired to eat . . . with you..... Lk. 22. 15
23-M. My thoughts are not your thoughts..... Is. 55. 8
24-Tu. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving. Col. 4. 2
25-W. Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you..... 1 Pet. 5. 7
26-Th. Those that walk in pride He is able to abase..... Dan. 4. 37
27-F. He knoweth them that trust in Him..... Nahum 1. 7
28-S. I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously... Ex. 15. 1
29-S. Thou hast brought Me into the dust of death..... Ps. 22. 15
30-M. Lift up your heads, O ye gates... and the King of glory shall come in. Ps. 24. 9
31-Tu. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory. 1 Chr. 29. 11

Beulah Land.

I HAD been speaking to a company of saints on the lovely description of our inheritance, in Deut. 8: 7-9—"For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass!"

The water speaks of the freshness of the Spirit; the grains, wheat and barley, of the Person of Christ; the fruits, of the varied aspects of His work—His *blood*, His *healing*, and His *gospel*; the oil olive, the *fulness* of the Spirit; the honey, the exceeding sweetness of it all; while the brass and iron suggest its permanence and stability.

At the close I said to an old saint—"It is a good land."

He had an impediment in his speech and spoke with difficulty, but his face beamed. "Yes," he said, and after a pause—"Beulah Land." Few indeed, but how appropriate the words: "Thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married" (Is. 62: 4). How sweet and blessed is the thought—not merely is every blessing secured to us, but all is enjoyed in holy relationship as the Bride of Christ.

"But oh, the height of bliss, O Lord, shall be
To owe it all, to share it all, *with Thee*."

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the . . . dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" (Psa. 133: 1, 3).

JUNE.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH
1 Corinthians, Nahum, Habakkuk,
Zephaniah

Moon's phases { New First Q Full Last Q
7 14 22 29

30 Days.

Ref.

- 1-W. The trying of your faith worketh patience. Jas. 1. 3
2-Th. Accepted in the Beloved. Eph. 1. 6
3-F. Being justified freely by His grace. Rom. 3. 24
4-S. I rejoice in Thy salvation. 1 Sam. 2. 1
- 5-S. They shall look on Him whom they pierced. John 19. 37
6-M. All flesh is as grass. 1 Pet. 1. 24
7-Tu. But the word of the Lord endureth forever. 1 Pet. 1. 25
8-W. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Mt. 5. 7
9-Th. He shall gather the lambs with His arm. Is. 40. 11
10-F. The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father. John 1. 18
-11-S. Leaning on Jesus' bosom. John 13. 23
- 12-S. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. Rev. 1. 10
13-M. The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 1 Cor. 2. 10
14-Tu. Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5. 19
15-W. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. Ps. 66. 18
16-Th. Occupy till I come. Lk. 19. 13
17-F. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree. Is. 55. 13
18-S. Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. 1 Thess. 1. 10
- 19-S. Surely He hath borne our griefs. Is. 53. 4
20-M. We have sinned, and have committed iniquity. Dan. 9. 5
21-Tu. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities. Ps. 103. 3
22-W. Boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. Heb. 10. 19
23-Th. Strengthen the things which remain. Rev. 3. 2
24-F. We beseech you. . . . that ye increase more and more. 1 Thess. 4. 10
25-S. If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Cor. 11. 31
- 26-S. My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? Mk. 15. 34
27-M. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Mt. 6. 21
28-Tu. The prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3. 14
29-W. Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Rom. 13. 11
30-Th. He loved them unto the end. John 13. 1

"They Shall Never Perish."

(John 10: 28.)

"**N**EVER perish," words of *mercy*,
Coming from the lips of One,
Who, though here a homeless stranger,
Fills the high eternal throne.
Brightness of the Father's glory,
God and man in one combined;
Faithful Shepherd of the chosen,
Safe are those to Him assigned.

"Never perish," words of *sweetness*,
Dissipating every fear,
Filling all with joy and gladness,
Who the Shepherd's voice can hear;
Bringing richest consolation
To the soul fatigued, oppressed;
Sweet refreshment to the fainting,
And to weary spirits rest.

"Never perish," words of *power*,
Satan now I can defy;
Safe my soul beyond my keeping,
Hid with Christ in God on high.
Come what will, I'm safe for ever;
'Tis the promise of my God,
Written in His word unfailing,
Sealed with Jesu's precious blood.

"Never perish," words of *glory*,
Heaven is mine, and all is well;
O my soul! with rapture burning,
On this precious sentence dwell.
Think not of thy faults and failings,
Nor on thy deservings brood;
What thou art in Jesus ponder,
And this promise of thy God.

A. M.

JULY,

PORTION FOR THE MONTH
2 Corinthians, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Moon's phases { New 6 First Q 13 Full 21 Last Q 28

31 Days.	Ref.
1-F. By Him actions are weighed.....	1 Sam. 2. 3
2-S. Blessed are the peacemakers.....	Mt. 5. 9
3-S. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd.....	Is. 40. 11
4-M. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?.....	Ps. 137. 4
5-Tu. When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion.....	Ps. 126. 1
6-W. If any man sin we have an Advocate with the Father.....	1 John 2. 1
7-Th. Ye also ought to wash one another's feet.....	John 13. 14
8-F. He restoreth my soul.....	Ps. 23. 3
9-S. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake " "	
10-S. This do in remembrance of Me.....	Lk. 22. 19
11-M. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered.....	Ps. 68. 1
12-Tu. The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Lk. 18. 27	
13-W. Buy the truth, and sell it not.....	Prov. 23. 23
14-Th. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.....	Col. 3. 17
15-F. Humble yourselves... under the mighty hand of God.....	1 Pet. 5. 6
16-S. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses.....	Dan. 9. 9
17-S. He weakened My strength in the way.....	Ps. 102. 23
18-M. That the power of Christ may rest upon me.....	2 Cor. 12. 9
19-Tu. I have learned... to be content.....	Phil. 4. 11
20-W. Say not, I am a child.....	Jer. 1. 7
21-Th. His eyes are upon the ways of man.....	Job 34. 21
22-F. Upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as... of a Man. Ezek. 1. 26	
23-S. The Man Christ Jesus.....	1 Tim. 2. 5
24-S. Obedient unto death.....	Phil. 2. 8
25-M. Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.....	1 Tim. 6. 8
26-Tu. Thou art greatly beloved.....	Dan. 9. 23
27-W. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?.....	Rom. 8. 35
28-Th. To know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.....	Eph. 3. 19
29-F. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son.	
30-S. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.....	1 Sam. 7. 12. [1 Cor. 1. 9
31-S. What are these wounds in Thy hands?.....	Zeck. 13. 6

“Restore Such an One.”

THE Apostle's authority was given him for edification, not destruction (2 Cor. 13: 10); and this explains the great patience exercised toward the assembly at Corinth. He would lead them to judge themselves, to purge out the evil, from their hearts, or outwardly from their midst, rather than himself denounce and crush them with the manifest power of Christ. Such a course had been necessary at the beginning, when the Church was established, and the awful judgment fell on Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5). But this was not to be the normal way; the Spirit was to act upon the conscience of the saints, and evil was to be judged and purged out.

This is the object of all discipline—the maintenance of the Lord's honor and the recovery of the wandering saint. Let us never forget this: a skilful surgeon prefers to heal a wounded limb, rather than amputate it. It is not so much to accuse one, as to lead him to accuse and judge himself. Of course truth may demand a public charge of sin against a wrongdoer; but we speak rather of that gracious action known as washing one another's feet. We have not succeeded in this unless the brother has been led to *judge himself*. We may well suspect that activity which is satisfied with reproving, accusing and publicly exposing failure in others. This is often met by self-vindication, recrimination, and lasting bitterness. But how sweet is that tender, melting spirit which provokes no resentment, but leads to true contrition. Such action is Christ-like, consistent with the greatest firmness, but it shows itself in *results*; saints are restored.

39

17

"A Soft Answer."

WE need make no apology for calling attention to this familiar quotation from the Old Testament. We are never so spiritual as to be beyond the need of warning and admonition as to the most ordinary conduct. The Epistle to the Ephesians, which sets the believer in the heavenlies in Christ, gives many a sober word as to the feet, as we pass on through this world. We might well quote as the inspired explanation of our verse the words from Eph. 4—"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

How quickly will strife cease, if the harsh, unkind word is met with the soft answer. How, alas, the tendency to respond in haste with like for like shows the presence of that evil nature which still abides with us. "No confidence in the flesh" is still to guide us.

How much is the soft answer needed in the house, between brothers and sisters, and others too. What need there is here to consider one another and to forbear. Shall the sharp word of the wearied mother, overburdened perhaps with too much toil, be taken up, or shall a soft answer soothe and relieve the strain?

On Tract Distribution.

SATAN is busy—never more so—with the printing press. Millions of pages of worldly, worthless stuff, are being put out. The country is being flooded with all sorts of advertisements. Shall we neglect this simple and blessed way of circulating the gospel? Without special exertion one may hand out daily many of these precious messengers of salvation. Are *you* doing anything for the Lord in this way?

SEPTEMBER.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH

Exodus, Galatians.

Moon's phases { New 3 First Q 11 Full 18 Last Q 25

30 Days.	Ref.
1-Th. Be sober, be vigilant.....	1 Pet. 5. 8
2-F. Hold fast till I come.....	Rev. 2. 25
3-S. Touch no unclean thing.....	Is. 52. 11
4-S. Wearing the crown of thorns.....	John 19. 5
5-M. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you....	John 15. 20
6-Tu. A soft tongue breaketh the bone.....	Prov. 25. 15
7-W. A very present help in trouble.....	Ps. 46. 1
8-Th. My God....hath shut the lions' mouths.....	Dan. 6. 22
9-F. Ye shall not respect persons in judgment.....	Deut. 1. 17
10-S. Enter into thy closet.....	Mt. 6. 6
11-S. They smote Him on the head with a reed.....	Mk. 15. 19
12-M. The fountain of living waters.....	Jer. 2. 13
13-Tu. That He may....hide pride from man.....	Job 33. 17
14-W. Fight the good fight of faith.....	1 Tim. 6. 12
15-Th. Stablished in the faith.....	Col. 2. 7
16-F. Our days on the earth are as a shadow.....	1 Chron. 29. 15
17-S. Thou remainest.....	Heb. 1. 11
18-S. It pleased the Lord to bruise Him.....	Is. 53. 10
19-M. Thy word is very pure: therefore Thy servant loveth it....	Ps. 119. 140
20-Tu. When I see the blood, I will pass over you.....	Ex. 12. 13
21-W. We, being many, are one body in Christ.....	Rom. 12. 5
22-Th. The disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.	Acts 13. 52
23-F. The parched ground shall become a pool.....	Is. 35. 7
24-S. I will ransom them from the power of the grave.....	Hos. 13. 14
25-S. Thou art fairer than the children of men.....	Ps. 45. 2
26-M. He is altogether lovely.....	Song of Sol. 5. 16
27-Tu. My God shall supply all your need.....	Phil. 4. 19
28-W. Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.....	2 Tim. 3. 14
29-Th. Be strong and of a good courage.....	Josh. 1. 9
30-F. Ye have seen the end of the Lord....very pitiful.....	Jas. 5. 11

Praying for the Saints.

A CHRISTIAN once went to a gifted and devoted servant of the Lord, now in heaven, and asked him to pray for him. He replied, "If you wish a scripture explained, you can come to me; but if you want prayer, go to—(another devoted servant, also now long with the Lord); he is the one to pray for you."

It is said of this brother that he was most distinctly a man of prayer. What a privilege to thus be an intercessor for the saints. We may not all be great teachers; nor may we all carry the gospel to the ends of the earth; but what is to hinder our being men and women of prayer? Have we dear ones not yet saved? Do we know saints who are in trial, or are feeble, or have wandered from the Lord? Do we see the state of the whole Church of God—its weakness and its needs? What a field of service is here to do as Epaphras did—"Laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

"Known and Read of all Men."

THE apostle thus addresses the Corinthians. They were manifestly declared to be the Epistle of Christ (2 Cor. 3: 3), and therefore the true epistle or letter of commendation for the apostle. He could refer to them as recommending the gospel which he preached. How is it with our converts? Do they commend us as approved servants of Christ? Are they manifestly declared to be "the epistle of Christ"? Without this, all the apparent success of numbers, and all human applause for eloquence, is utterly worthless. May the Lord give His servants in ever increasing measure the true letters of commendation in sinners saved and saints sanctified by the truth.

OCTOBER.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH

Numbers, Ephesians.

Moon's phases { New First Q Full Last Q
2 11 18 24

31 Days.

Ref.

- 1-S. Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount.....Deut. 1. 6
- 2-S. His visage was so marred, more than any man.....Is. 52. 14
- 3-M. Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners.....Lk. 15. 1
- 4-Tu. Let us go again and visit our brethren.....Acts 15. 36
- 5-W. In honor preferring one another.....Rom. 12. 10
- 6-Th. Judge righteously between every man and his brother.....Deut. 1. 16
- 7-F. Ye are the light of the world.....Mt. 5. 14
- 8-S. God ...hath shined into our hearts to give the light.....2 Cor. 4. 6
- 9-S. The sun was darkened.....Lk. 23. 45
- 10-M. Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep.....Prov. 19. 15
- 11-Tu. Rich in good works.....1 Tim. 6. 18
- 12-W. All riches of the full assurance of understanding.....Col. 2. 2
- 13-Th. Ye took joyfully the spoiling of your goods.....Heb. 10. 34
- 14-F. I will also save you from all your uncleannesses.....Ezek. 36. 29
- 15-S. How sweet are Thy words unto my taste!.....Ps. 119. 103
- 16-S. He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied. Is. 53. 11
- 17-M. Patient in tribulation.....Rom. 12. 12
- 18-Tu. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.....John 15. 8
- 19-W. Not by works of righteousness which we have done.....Tit. 3. 5
- 20-Th. Thou exceedest the fame that I heard.....2 Chr. 9. 6
- 21-F. Thy love is better than wine.....Song 1. 2
- 22-S. Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit.....Zech. 4. 6
- 23-S. They shall smite the Judge of Israel with a rod.....Mi. 5. 1
- 24-M. The Sun of righteousness...with healing in His wings.....Mal. 4. 2
- 25-Tu. I am...the bright and morning star.....Rev. 22. 16
- 26-W. The darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.....1 John 2. 8
- 27-Th. Walk as children of light.....Eph. 5. 8
- 28-F. We ought to obey God, rather than men.....Acts 5. 29
- 29-S. He hath not dealt with us after our sins.....Ps. 103. 10
- 30-S. We see Jesus ... crowned with glory and honor.....Heb. 2. 9
- 31-M. The judgment was set, and the books were opened.....Dan. 7. 10

"Where Thou Goest, There will I Go."



A HOMELESS stranger amongst us came
To this land of death and mourning,
He walked in a path of sorrow and shame,
Through insult, and hate, and scorning.

A man of sorrows, of toil and tears,
An outcast man and a lonely,
But He looked on me, and through endless years
Him must I love, Him only.

* * * * *

Then from this sad and sorrowful land,
From this land of tears, He departed,
But the light of His eyes, and the touch of His hand
Had left me broken hearted.

And I clave to Him as He turned His face
From the land that was mine no longer,
The land I had loved in the ancient days
Ere I knew the love that was stronger.

And I would abide where He abode,
And follow His steps for ever;
His people my people, His God my God,
None should hinder me, none should sever.

And where He died would I also die,
Far dearer a grave beside Him,
Than a kingly place amongst living men—
The place which they denied Him.

* * * * *

Then afar and afar did I follow Him on,
To the land where He was going,
To the depths of glory beyond the sun,
Where the golden fields were glowing.

The golden harvest of endless joy,
The joys He had sown in weeping;
How can I tell the blest employ,
The songs of that glorious reaping?

The recompense sweet, the full reward,
Which the Lord His God has given;
At rest beneath the wings of the Lord,
At home in the courts of heaven.

NOVEMBER.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH
Deuteronomy, Philippians, Colossians,
1 & 2 Thessalonians.

Moon's phases { New First Q Full Last Q
1 9 16 23

- 30 Days. Ref.
- 1-Tu. O Lord, revive Thy work..... Hab. 3. 2
- 2-W. In Thy hand it is...to give strength unto all..... 1 Chr. 29. 12
- 3-Th. The Lord is my strength and song..... Ex. 15. 2
- 4-F. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin... Rom. 4. 8
- 5-S. Let all things be done decently and in order..... 1 Cor. 14. 40
- 6-S. They crucified Him..... Mk. 27. 35
- 7-M. I am crucified with Christ..... Gal. 2. 20
- 8-Tu. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord..... Jer. 3. 14
- 9-W. That thou mayest be wise in thy latter end..... Prov. 19. 20
- 10-Th. Keep that which is committed to thy trust..... 1 Tim. 6. 20
- 11-F. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy..... Col. 2. 8
- 12-S. Looking for that blessed hope..... Tit. 2. 13
- 13-S. Being made a curse for us..... Gal. 3. 13
- 14-M. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed..... Lam. 3. 22
- 15-Tu. Thy testimonies are wonderful..... Ps. 119. 129
- 16-W. A new heart also will I give you..... Ezek. 36. 26
- 17-Th. Continuing instant in prayer..... Rom. 12. 12
- 18-F. If ye love Me, keep My commandments..... John 14. 15
- 19-S. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness... Eph. 5. 11
- 20-S. He brought Me up also out of a horrible pit..... Ps. 40. 2
- 21-M. He brought me to the banqueting house..... Song of Sol. 2. 4
- 22-Tu. The glorious liberty of the children of God..... Rom. 8. 21
- 23-W. Thou... hast led forth the people which Thou hast redeemed. Ex. 15. 13
- 24-Th. Thou shalt bring them in..... Ex. 15. 17
- 25-F. Bringing many sons unto glory..... Heb. 2. 10
- 26-S. That we should be to the praise of His glory..... Eph. 1. 12
- 27-S. By whose stripes ye were healed..... 1 Pet. 2. 24
- 28-M. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself... comfort your hearts... 2 Thess. 2. 16, 17
- 29-Tu. The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven..... 1 Thess. 4. 16
- 30-W. The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work..... 2 Tim. 4. 18

The Expulsive Power of Communion.

WHEN Abraham returned from his victory over the kings (Gen. 14) he was met by two men—the king of Sodom, and Melchizedek, king of Salem. The latter brought out bread and wine, suggesting our Lord's person and work, and pronouncing blessing upon Abraham led out his praises to the most High God, possessor of heaven and earth. Abraham is thus set in communion with God. As a result, when the king of Sodom approaches him offering to share the results of his victory, Abraham, in the consciousness of this relationship, can refuse all. He will not take a shoe latchet from the king of Sodom, even though he himself had snatched it all from the victorious kings.

If we too are in communion with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the offers of the world will have no charm for us.

Corner Chambers.

(Ezek. 46: 19-24.)

THERE was a distinct purpose in these courts or chambers, separate from the main court. Here the offerings were to be prepared, boiled or roasted, and not in the more public place. How needed are these corner places still. Truth is learned—some special portion of God's word is opened up to us. Our temptation is to speak of it in public ministry before we have thoroughly made it our own in secret. Let us make use of the corner chambers, taking our precious things there, and in prayer and meditation prepare them for profitable use, as the Lord may lead, in public ministry or private conversation. How much barren, empty conversation, or worse, would be avoided were these chambers more constantly used.

DECEMBER.

PORTION FOR THE MONTH
Hebrews, Revelation.

Moon's phases { New First Q Full Last Q
1, 31 9 15 22, 1

- 31 Days. Ref.
- 1-Th. Let us lay aside every weight..... Heb. 12. 1
2-F. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might..... Eph. 6. 10
3-S. Stand fast in the Lord..... Phil. 4. 1
- 4-S. A Lamb as it had been slain..... Rev. 5. 6
5-M. Ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins..... 1 John 3. 5
6-Tu. Let us not be desirous of vain glory..... Gal. 5. 26
7-W. He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord..... 2 Cor. 10. 17
8-Th. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ..... 2 Tim. 2. 3
9-F. Mortify your members which are upon the earth..... Col. 3. 5
10-S. By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..... 1 Cor. 12. 13
- 11-S. He is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter..... Is. 53. 7
12-M. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet..... Ps. 119. 105
13-Tu. I will heal thee of thy wounds..... Jer. 30. 17
14-W. Be not wise in your own conceits..... Rom. 12. 16
15-Th. Peace I leave with you..... John 14. 27
16-F. Understanding what the will of the Lord is..... Eph. 5. 17
17-S. The love of Christ constraineth us..... 2 Cor. 5. 14
- 18-S. Sit Thou at My right hand..... Ps. 110. 1
19-M. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect!..... Rom. 8. 33
20-Tu. I will leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people. Zeph. 3. 12
21-W. He hath filled the hungry with good things..... Lk. 1. 53
22-Th. Although the fig tree shall not blossom...yet I will rejoice in the Lord.
23-F. He delighteth in mercy..... Mi. 7. 18..[Hab. 3. 17, 18
24-S. Seek Him that...turneth the shadow of death into the morning. Amos 5. 8
- 25-S. I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save..... Is. 63. 1
26-M. Lo, I am with you always..... Mt. 28. 20
27-Tu. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love..... Hos. 11. 4
28-W. Draw me, we will run after Thee..... Song 1. 4
29-Th. My presence shall go with thee..... Ex. 33. 14
30-F. If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence..... " " 15
31-S. God...all in all..... 1 Cor. 15. 28

Some Facts as to Man's Life in Genesis.

Only *ten* generations cover the whole period from Adam's expulsion from Eden to the Flood, as follows (see Gen. chap. 5):

Age of ADAM	at birth of	SETH	130 y'rs.	Whole life	930 y'rs.
" SETH	"	ENOS	105 "	"	912 "
" ENOS	"	CAINAN	90 "	"	905 "
" CAINAN	"	MAHALALEEL	70 "	"	910 "
" MAHALALEEL	"	JARED	65 "	"	895 "
" JARED	"	ENOC	162 "	"	962 "
" ENOC	"	METHUSELAH	65 "	"	365 <i>Trans. to Heaven.</i>
" METHUSELAH	"	LAMECH	187 "	"	969 y'rs.
" LAMECH	"	NOAH	182 "	"	777 "
" NOAH	"	of his SONS	500 "	"	950 " (Gen. 9: 29)
			TO THE FLOOD	100 "	
"	the WORLD at the FLOOD		1,656 "		

From the above table we see that Noah's father (Lamech) was for 65 years contemporaneous with Adam, from whom he could, and no doubt did, learn the whole history of Eden, of the Fall, of God's ways, and of approach to Him through sacrifice. But, notwithstanding all this knowledge, common surely to all then living, ungodliness and evil had markedly developed, as we learn from the prophecy of Enoch (see Jude 14, 15)—Enoch himself walking with God, apart from the ungodly (Gen. 5: 22-24).

Seven generations of Cain are given us in Gen. 4: 16-24; the 6th (Lamech) a bigamist, and lawless man. As men multiplied the descendants of Seth mingled with those of Cain by intermarriage, obliterating the testimony for God upon the earth (see chap. 6: 1-8), and God swept mankind away from the earth, after 120 years of testimony through Noah (2 Pet. 2: 5).

Noah, of the family of Seth, "found grace in the eyes of the

Lord" (chap. 6 : 8), was accounted "righteous before God," through faith, was saved with his family through the ark.

A new beginning is now made upon a renewed earth, and government established for the punishment of transgressors (chap. 9 : 1-6)—which was not so before the Flood. As Adam soon fell from his God-given place in Eden, so Noah soon repeats the failure after the Flood—the head of the God-established government failed to govern himself (chap. 9 : 20-25). Let us observe also that at the Fall man's life was limited to less than 1,000 years,—it is now cut down to half what it had been before the Flood : and this is again cut down one half after the dispersion at Babel, in the days of Peleg (chap. 10 : 25), as the following table shows.

BORN AFTER THE FLOOD (chap. 11).

Birth of ARPHAXAD		2 y'rs after the Flood.	
Age of ARPHAXAD at birth of	SALAH	35 y'rs.	Whole life 438 y'rs.
" SALAH	" EBER	30 "	" 433 "
" EBER	" PELEG	34 "	" 464 "
" PELEG (<i>division</i>)	" REU	30 "	" 239 "
" REU	" SERUG	32 "	" 239 "
" SERUG	" NAHOR	30 "	" 230 "
" NAHOR	" TERAH	29 "	" 148 "
" TERAH, 3 sons, one of them	ABRAM	130* "	" 205 "
Age after the FLOOD		352	"

Again we have *ten* generations; the 10th, Abram (one of Terah's three sons) was born only 352 years after the Flood, as per above table. Shem, who lived 502 years after the Flood (chap. 11 : 10, 11), must have outlived Abraham, who died being 175 years old.

* Seventy years is given as Terah's age when sons were born to him (chap. 11 : 26) ; but it is probable that Abram was not the first-born, though mentioned first as God's chosen one. His father died being 205 years old (chap. 11 : 32), and Abram was 75 years old at that time (chap. 12 : 4) therefore Terah must have been 130 years old when Abram was born.

How sad the reflection, that in the lifetime of Shem, his descendants had so departed from God as to sink into idolatry, as we learn from Josh. 24: 2! Have Israel and the Church done any better? See Exod. chap. 32; Acts 7: 41-43 and Acts 20: 29; 2 Tim. 1: 15; Jude 4, 12-15. T.

"A Top and Bottom, But no Middle."

A SERVANT of the Lord was talking to an old woman who could not say that she was saved, although she knew she was a sinner, and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Having made sure that she realized herself to be a sinner, with no confidence in her own righteousness, he spoke to her much as follows:

"Well, Granny, I know that I have eternal life."

"Oh," she said, "I wouldn't dare to say that."

"But," he went on, "I have a plain scripture for it; a wonderful text, with a top and a bottom, but no middle. It is this: 'He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life,'—that is the top; 'and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him,'—that is the bottom; and you see there is no middle."

"Now let us try this verse with you. We will begin with the bottom—Do you refuse to believe on the Lord Jesus? Do you say to Him, I don't want You, I have no need of You."

"Oh," she interrupted—"I couldn't say that. What would a poor sinful creature like me do without the Saviour?"

"Well," you are clearly not in the bottom of the verse; *there is no middle*; and where must you be?"

Light shone into her heart, and peace and joy in believing were her happy portion.

Reader, are you in the top or the bottom of John 3: 36?

Distinguish, but do not Separate.

WE are naturally given to the use of reason apart from the Word of God in stating doctrines which are only known by revelation. The finite mind cannot grasp infinite truth in its entirety. In our efforts to "harmonize" the teachings of God's word we may unintentionally fall into erroneous statements, or give undue prominence to one line of truth or the other. We should ever approach truth reverently, and especially in seeking to know the divine mystery of the person of the Son of God, we should abhor all speculation, and confine ourselves closely to the clear declarations of Scripture.

All truth is related, and we cannot separate it into disconnected parts, as if there were no vital relationship between all. The neglect of this accounts for extreme and onesided views, for instance, of Divine sovereignty and human responsibility, and many other doctrines.

It is believed that the title to this little paper—"Distinguish, but do not separate," may be helpful in guarding against the danger of which we speak.

1. The Person of the Son of God.

"The Word was God" (John 1: 1). This shows His absolute deity.

"The Man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2: 5). This shows His perfect humanity.

Innumerable errors have sprung up from ignoring one or the other of these immense truths. Unitarianism in all its forms, ancient and modern, comes from ignoring or denying the first great truth—the Godhead of our Holy Saviour. A real Man, who lived, loved, obeyed, suffered, died and rose again, is seated now in heaven, will come for His own, be united with His Church in heavenly glory, reign over the earth in relation with Israel during the Millennium, and finally having delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, will be eternally associated with Him in the bliss

of a ransomed universe. All this is connected with His incarnation, His humanity. Therefore, to deny His humanity would be to deny all possibility of each of these facts—we would have no atonement, no Saviour, no High Priest, no Lord, no Head of the Church.

All Christians are agreed therefore as to these two great and glorious facts. But in the well-meant effort to explain various acts in our Lord's life and work there has been the tendency to *separate* the two natures of our Lord. For instance, He was weary at the well of Sychar: here therefore He was Man. He told the woman all that ever she did: there He was God. Now while quite true that we can *distinguish* between the two natures, the moment we *separate* them we fall into error. This is the fatal poison in the so-called *Kenosis* theory, that our Lord absolutely emptied Himself of His Godhead in becoming Man. There have been many offshoots from this theory, but let us reject them one and all.

On the other hand, let us *distinguish* as carefully and minutely as possible between all the varied characteristics of our blessed Lord, and as we see Him: here the Babe in the manger; there the object of the Spirit's sealing; still further on, the anguished Sufferer in Gethsemane, and last in the awful darkness of Calvary, let us ever fall on our faces and with Thomas exclaim, "MY LORD AND MY GOD."

2. The Various Elements in Atonement.

"Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15: 3).

"He is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2: 2).

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2: 24).

"If Christ be not raised . . . ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15: 17).

Now each of these precious verses gives us a special view of the atoning work of our blessed Lord. The first declares the broad fact that He died for our sins; the second, that He is the propitiation, He is before God in all the value of His atoning work, so

that divine justice has been fully satisfied; the third shows Him as our own substitute; while the fourth declares the necessity of His resurrection, if His death were to be of any avail.

Now here is abundant room for discrimination; each verse—and many others—gives a certain *aspect* of our Lord's work, distinct from the others. But let us beware that we do not separate the various parts of that one work, but with grateful hearts adore the love that has provided such an offering that a holy God and a guilty, repentant sinner can meet in righteousness and blessing.

3. New Birth and Eternal Life.

"Ye must be born again" (John 3: 7).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3: 36).

There are, no doubt, many aspects of eternal life—we can think of it in its eternal display, in its present possession, as indissolubly linked with and maintained by the Son of God, and as the vital principle of divine life in each subject of God's grace, in all dispensations. Now new birth is evidently the *beginning* of this life. We can, in a reverent way, distinguish this from its subsequent display and enjoyment. But let us beware of error in *separating* the beginning of life from its continuance and culmination.

4. The Work of the Spirit in us, and of Christ for us.

"Born of water and of the Spirit" (John 3: 5).

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

There is unquestionably a divine work of the Spirit of God in the soul of every subject of divine grace. The means He uses is the word of God: repentance, a new nature, as well as subsequent power in walk, with many other features, are the work of the Spirit in the heart. Equally clear is it that our Lord's work is the ground upon which all is wrought. We can distinguish here, but again must guard from separating. We cannot think of a soul wrought upon effectually by the Holy Spirit to be left without the value of the sheltering, cleansing blood of Christ.

And so we might go on to note distinguishing features in life and nature; repentance and faith; faith and sealing; priesthood and advocacy; standing and state; faith and works; and many other related truths, which must not be separated from each other. May the Lord give us rightly to divide the word of truth.

God's Great Secret.

(Eph. 3: 1-9).

IT is a special honor when a friend confides some secret to us—some great happiness about to be his—some wide, far-reaching plan which he desires to carry out. But what shall we say when the infinite God confides His purposes and plans to us? And yet this is just what He has done—and more, *we*, sinners saved by grace, are not merely the confidants, but the *participants* in this wondrous secret. God is going to have a Bride for His Son, a human bride, formed from the sons of men, saved by grace, from Pentecost till the coming of the Lord. The Lord is the Second Man, and “it is not meet that Man should be alone.” What dignity, holy intimacy, eternal bliss does all this suggest! No words can describe it. Let us ask ourselves, are we walking worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called? (Eph. 4: 1-4).

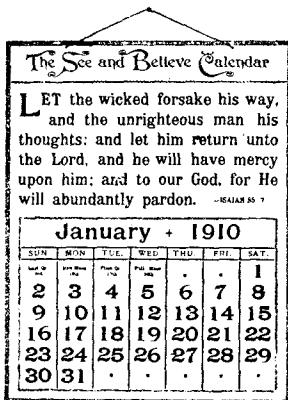
“What raiseth the wondrous thought?

Or who did it suggest?

That we, the Church, to glory brought

Should *with the Son* be blessed!”





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