



A Good Choice

Professor Huxley says that if a fairy offered a choice of gifts for his baby boy, he would choose — what? "A good digestion." For what would you ask?

Solomon, the wisest of men, tells of a dream he had. GOD said: "Ask what I shall give thee." You know how he chose. He asked for a wise and understanding heart. This pleased GOD and He added riches and honour. "And Solomon awoke and behold it was a dream." What a disappointment! No. Solomon believed GOD and expressed his gratitude by thankofferings. His faith was rewarded, as always.

Listen—"This is the witness of GOD which He hath testified of His Son. He that believeth not GOD hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that GOD gave of His SON. And this is the record, that GOD hath given to us Eternal Life and this Life is in His SON." 1 John 5:9, 10, 11.

Why not thank Him?

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A Shock?

Mr. Kingsley Martin, when editor of "The New Statesman," wrote: "I was brought up in the Christian Faith, and because I learnt what Christianity is, I know now that I am not a Christian."

By and large, that's a discovery each of us must make. For "Christening" is not "Christianing" — no outward ordinance or ceremony will regenerate a man or a baby.

We are told in the Gospel of John, 1:11, 12, 13, of the true Light, JESUS CHRIST, that "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not, but as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of GOD even to **them which believe on His Name;** which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of GOD."

Have you come to him as a sinner and thanked Him for having, "His Own Self, borne our sins in His Own Body on the tree"?

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A Soldier's Prayer

Offered by Lord Roberts of Kandahar:

"**A**LMIGHTY Father, I have often sinned against Thee. Oh! wash me in the precious Blood of the Lamb of GOD. Fill me with Thy Holy Spirit that I may lead a new life. Spare me to see again those I love at home, or fit me for Thy presence in peace. If it be Thy will, enable us to win victory for our nation, but above all, grant us a better victory over temptation and sin, over life and death, that we may be more than conquerors through Him Who loves us and laid down His life for us, JESUS CHRIST, our SAVIOUR, the Captain of the Army of GOD. Amen."

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"C'EST SON METIER"

(That's what He is for).

A well-meaning friend of the German poet, Heinrich Heine, asked him as he lay writhing on his death-bed, if he "had hope of the forgiveness of God." "Why, yes, certainly, that's what God is for," was his bitter mocking reply.

No! it's not quite so simple. For "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," was the Lord's reply to the question whether certain who had died suddenly were great sinners.

We may like to think that, as one preacher told us on Remembrance Day, those who died in the war were saved because he knew that nearly all died calling on God.

But we dare not live as careless sinners and depend on God to answer our dying cry.

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Escape

When a theatre in an American town caught fire, scores were trapped in a "WAY OUT," exit from which was closed by the building's outer wall. It was a dead end.

Did war criminals who committed suicide escape, or was the exit only from prison to judgment bar?

Beneath an eastern sky
Amid a rabble cry,
A man went forth to die
FOR ME;

Thorn-crowned His blessed Head,
Blood-stained His every tread,
Cross-laden on He sped,
TO CALVARY.

Yes! it was "for crimes that I had done." By that Death a way of escape was made, open to all guilty sinners who look to that Lamb of GOD as having taken their place when He was offered for our sins at Calvary.

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Fact or Fiction?

The late Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Temple, told how much he was impressed by a candid friend's opinion that "what a clergyman says in a canteen seems real, but what goes on in Church seems artificial."

A clergyman said to a celebrated actor: "How is it that you can move your audience to tears, while I cannot even hold my congregation's attention?"

The reply was: "Because I speak fiction as if I believed it, you preach truth as if it were fiction."

Preachers must preach the Gospel for it is still "the power of GOD unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

This is "the word of faith, which we preach" said the Apostle Paul: "That if thou shalt confess with Thy mouth the LORD JESUS, and shalt believe in thine heart that GOD hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9, 10.

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I'm Going to H—

Bishop — was a very absent minded man. He had an appointment in a town a few miles away, to reach which he had to change trains at a junction. The Bishop had no car. He had booked, but mislaid his ticket. "Never mind," said the official, "have it punched at the junction." But the junction found a troubled cleric still searching his pockets. "Don't worry, my lord," said the ticket collector, "we all know you, give it up at your destination," "Ah!" said the Bishop, "but till I find my ticket I don't know my destination."

We smile, but there's a warning for us in the story. We may have to change trains presently.

JESUS CHRIST told His disciples: "I go to prepare a place for you . . . And whither I go ye know and the way ye know . . . I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." John 14:2, 4, 6.

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Our Heritage

AT A DINNER table one evening a lovely collie dog was attentively watching for scraps. To illustrate a point in his conversation, his master put the dish with the joint down beside the dog. Abashed, the dog slunk away. "He doesn't understand legs of mutton, only scraps," said his owner.

Perhaps, though we're truly converted Christians, we are living on scraps.

Billy Bray, the converted Cornishman, had an appetite for legs of mutton and could sing "I'm the child of a King."

"Beloved, now are we the sons of GOD, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him, purifieth himself even as He is pure."

1 John 3:2, 3.

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"Plane Miracle Saves Baby"

So says the London Daily Mirror. Here is the story:

In a lonely hut on the desolate China-Tibet border a baby girl was dying. Her father, Mr. Harry Fishern, British Missionary, prayed for help, nothing but a miracle could save his 18 months old child. The nearest hospital was hundreds of miles away and there was no doctor. The baby had pneumonia and the crisis was approaching.

As he prayed, the noise of a plane was heard. It made a forced landing and happened to carry oxygen tanks. The airmen helped nurse the baby for three days. It lived. A lucky chance? What were the chances against a forced landing there in the nick of time with the needed remedy—and willing help? Millions to one! But the cry to GOD had come from those who had gone to that land to tell of a knowledge of forgiveness of sins and Eternal Life to be received as a Gift from GOD by those who believe and receive His Son JESUS CHRIST as SAVIOUR.

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A Chinese girl, a newcomer to the Mission Bible Class, when questioned on the lessons, said:

“I liked that part about *Jesus* healing the blind, because I thought we are like those men, blind, but when we believe in Him, He opens our eyes and we see.”

The missionary said “Can you see?” and the girl answered, shyly, “I can see.” Her face was radiant.

Our Lord says:

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”—John 12:46.



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Alves Reis, once General Manager of Railways, etc., in Portuguese West Africa, was sentenced to 25 years for obtaining millions of bank notes by forged orders. When converted, after serving six years, efforts were made to have him released. But Portugal said, "The Majesty of the Law must be upheld." And Reis had to remain in prison.

Is Almighty GOD less careful to uphold His law than Portugal was? How then can we escape, who are under condemnation? "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD."

Only by our Judge becoming our Saviour. "For GOD was in CHRIST, reconciling the world unto Himself." "Now then"—"Be ye reconciled to GOD."

—II Corinthians 5: 19, 20.

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As the soldiers neared his home, a wealthy Chinese Moslem seized an 8-year-old girl and thrust her into a bedroom, saying, "If ever you prayed in your life, pray now." Her listening mother heard the girl pray, "Oh! LORD JESUS! I'm so happy. My grandfather has told me to pray! You know how he beat me for praying! Oh! LORD JESUS! this is your chance. Please keep the soldiers from coming. Shew my grandfather you do answer prayer."

The soldiers had reached the open door when their officer's horse shied, bucking and kicking, halting the whole band. And the girl kept praying in Chinese. "Chae shi ni chutih ki-hue," meaning,

"LORD THIS IS YOUR CHANCE."

The superstitious officer shouted, "the place is full of demons, we cannot see them, but the horse can; not one of you go in." And they left. Do you wonder that the proud old Moslem decided to go to the "JESUS Hall," and learn to pray?

Have you learned the prayer of faith that expects and receives an answer? "For he that cometh to GOD must believe that He is and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."—Hebrews 11:6.

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During the war a 16-year-old prisoner, brought up for questioning, spat in the British Colonel's face. Wiping the insult off, the officer said, "It's lucky you did that to me and not to one of my sergeants. I would be justified in shooting you; the only reason I don't is because you don't know any better."

And it's lucky for us who have insulted GOD by rejecting His SON, given to be our SAVIOUR, that we are dealing with a forgiving GOD Who delights in mercy.

"But how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

"Behold, now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."

"He that believeth not GOD hath made Him a liar, because he believeth not the record that GOD gave of His SON. And this is the record, that GOD hath given to us Eternal Life, and this Life is in His SON."

—1 John 5:10, 11.

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John A. Clarke, of Mulongo, Congo Belge, was able to patch up an African who had been badly mauled by a lion. Years afterwards a group of Africans appeared at the Mission House. Their leader said "You don't recollect me?" "No," said Clarke. "I'm the man you healed at such and such a place," said the African. "These are my wives and children; the goods they carry are mine. I am yours, you saved my life; these are yours, all I have is yours."

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that CHRIST JESUS came into the world to save sinners."—I Tim 1:15.

But believing this won't save. The all-important question is "Did He die for me? Were my sins charged against Him? Is His resurrection my receipt in full for all I owe?"

Can we say: "We love Him because He first loved us"?

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Living Words

Luther said of "the Scriptures" (writings collected and forming "The Bible").

"They are not dead words, they are living creatures, and have hands and feet." "Absurd," you say? Well, listen to this true story:

An Italian soldier bought a gospel and afterwards told the Bible Society colporteur that "soon it gripped me" (a remarkable expression), "and I could not stop until I had read it through. My heart turned within me when I realised that JESUS gave His life for me; I wept when I realised that He offers every sinner pardon, and I cried: "Accept me, LORD JESUS, and forgive me." That's all, a simple story but I am a new man now."

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Many years ago the London "Punch" pictured Sir Gorgeous Midas interviewing his son's schoolmaster. The boy's lamentable failure was accounted for thus: "The fact is, Sir Gorgeous, your son has no capacity." Hooking his thumbs into the armholes of his vest, the millionaire says: "Well, we ain't particular what we pay, let him have one at once."

The remedy, alas, was not in the schoolmaster's power, but we have no such excuse. It is not incapacity to believe the Gospel that hinders our acceptance of it, but a want of will. "Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life," says the LORD. John 5:40.

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The Bible tells of how an exile got the attention of his friend who declined to come and see him. He set his barley field on fire—this brought him post-haste to know why.

The loss, the disappointment, the sickness may have been allowed to come because GOD'S calls have been neglected—

Perhaps the first of these has not reached your understanding?

“GOD . . . now commandeth men everywhere to repent,” for there is a day of judgment coming. You'll need an Advocate, won't you?

The Christian can say “we have an advocate with the Father, JESUS CHRIST the righteous,” and with the Apostle Paul, “we pray you in CHRIST'S stead, be ye reconciled to GOD. 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.”
—II Corinthians 5:20, 21.

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The Highland clans of Scotland were intensely proud. The story is told of a clansman who was reminded that we are all descended from one or other of Noah's sons who were saved from the Flood, in the Ark. But he wouldn't accept this. He insisted that "the MacPhersons would have a boat of their own."

Our Churches have each "a boat of their own". It is most confusing. They call "Back to Church", but to which Church? Better call us back to the Bible. Begin with the "Gospel according to John". For we are told in chapter 20, verse 31:

"But these are written that ye might believe that JESUS is THE CHRIST, the SON OF GOD; and that, believing, ye might have life through His name."



You may have a copy of this Gospel post free on application to:—

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WRITING from prison in Rome to Timothy, "my own son in the faith", the Apostle Paul reminds him that "from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in CHRIST JESUS."—II Timothy 3:15.

Timothy owed much to the teaching of his mother and his grandmother, both converted Jewesses. But grace is not hereditary, and Timothy's salvation came through faith as ours must. We may have been christened and confirmed, but as old Queen Victoria (by Act of Parliament, "Supreme Governor of the Church") prayed for her young friend, we may need to be shewn "that without change of heart we can never become true Christians and that no outward observances can in any wise save our souls."



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