

## ONE OF OUR GUIDES.

Heb. xiii. 7-8.

It has seemed good to our blessed Lord who raised up our beloved brother, Harry Friend, to serve Him these many years, locally among the few gathered to His Name in Walthamstow, where by lip and by life, in word and in deed, a sweet savour of Christ ascended, an epistle of Christ could be read, and the result and yield of that well-spent life of well nigh thirty years must be left with Him to suitably reward and reveal results where He can be glorified, though we who have been under such ministry, flowing forth more directly from the heart of Christ through this chosen vessel should have an exercise as to what openness or otherwise we have shown to all this solicitude on our behalf, and what has been the extent of spiritual profit we have derived, and what we have gathered up to further us in our Christian course, to the end that we be found in ample support to love and honour His Name; to contend for our holy faith; not now in an attitude of fainting because of our loss but braced to follow closely, sincerely and zealously, for surely we can say the blessed Lord has been mindful of us all, and His placing among us one to live and labour—a man of no great personality, but the greatness lay in his **matter** and his **mission**—the import of which, we submit, must needs be emphasized from the fact that our lot has been cast in times when difficulties and dangers, neither few nor infrequent, have also attended our way. Not that it is wise or scriptural to dwell on the evils to be overcome, yet in His goodness, love, and mercy He has preserved us when the greatest unabated enmity and scorn has been directed at His Word—the number of higher and lower critics who show their positive hate are legion; then again, that awful and woeful mass who do not criticise—the lukewarm mass of empty professors indifferent to Christ and scripture—chill and affect us all; add to this our general unfaithfulness and numerous failures, individually and collectively; numbers offended who give up following Him, who consent not to His wholesome words; the world alluring, which should have been a crucified thing beneath our feet; the flesh, that no confidence can be placed

in, alas how active and fruitful do we sorrowfully know it to have been to our blessed Lord's dishonour—coming out in our faulty walk and ways—so slow to be judged and confessed in the light of the Word of our God. Then, again, those dark clouds that settle so ominously over the whole of Christendom in those features of Jewish apostacy so manifest in ritual—that subtle religious show appealing so readily to feelings but devoid of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Let scripture speak and show in what a light is this matter viewed and held up for warning to those Jewish followers who had professedly embraced the holy faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: "Of how much sorer punishment suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace"? (Heb. x. 29). See, too, how Gentile converts can fall from grace (Gal. v); and from Jude gather the bearing of Gentiles toward our God, who brought salvation, in the abuse of grace and denial of Him and our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the foregoing how beautiful and fitting to be prompted to **remember them which have the rule over us, who have spoken unto us the Word of God:** in meekness instructing, unerringly piloting—what infinite mercy and goodness to be encouraged to work out our salvation with fear and trembling knowing it is God who works in us to will and do His pleasure. There are hirelings who flee in time of danger—but how little esteem have we for those who serve Him in this pre-eminent way of **labouring in the word and doctrine.** Readers, subscribers, contributors, friends, relatives, neighbours, we are called upon to bow to His blessed will in promoting our brother—the voice no longer heard, the pen laid aside—**present with the Lord.** We have the savour of his life and through the meekness and gentleness with which he instructed us greater ability than previously to rightly divide and apply the word of truth; we have, too, the manner of life ordered of the Lord and **the faith of this dear servant to follow.** He is in the waiting chamber—accounts have yet to be rendered—may it be ours to so permanently profit by these invaluable

able ministrations—words in season—of grace and truth—edifying as milk for young and meat for fuller age—that his wages may be full, his joys complete as fruit of such labours are shaken again into his bosom; that reaping may be after the character of the sowing; for did not the Apostle John tells of his chief joys in those words: “**I have no greater joy than to hear my children walk in truth**”; and how needful, that we relax not, seeing many deceivers are entered into the world. This word was expressed primarily to an elect lady: “**Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward**” (2 John 8).

Readers will have known our brother best through his acceptable service in connection with “The Christian’s Helper,” and his “Meditations on the Song of Songs”—a very choice contribution—sweet, instructive and free from sentimentality, but warming and making fruitful the understanding of a portion of the Word in which too frequently the imagination is drawn upon. He was not robust, but steadily pursued his work, having but a brief illness; he placed himself under medical treatment a month before his holiday, but the physician’s skill was unequal; duties were not resumed; on September 5 word was passed “with Christ, which is far better.” His age was 49. The place where his body was laid, Moretonhampstead Churchyard, on September 9th. His wife, who so fully shared his path (for they were always most hospitable) preceded him near fourteen months before. Relatives and friends are sorrowing in hope. We tender them our sympathy and may it please Him to comfort and console by the infallible means of the precious scriptures, Eph. iv. 11-12; 2 Tim. iii. 10-12; iv. 5-8, etc., engaged us on Saturday, 9th September.

W. B.

### A RECIPE.

How is it you’re always so happy, was asked  
Of a Christian who joyed in his Lord

You seem never cast down,  
And you ne’er wear a frown,  
Your recipe I would like to record.