

THE CLERGYMAN AND THE SICK SOLDIER,

A WORD TO CHRISTIANS.

THE following remarkable answers were given to questions put to a soldier in Hospital by the Chaplain, and, being so beautifully simple and Scriptural, are printed in the hope that they may prove useful to all Christians, in leading them so to study God's Word as always to be able to give a *Scriptural* answer for the Hope that is in them.

The Chaplain was paying his first visit to the sick man, and it being a part of his duty to enquire to what sect the patient belonged, said,

“ Well—what are *you* ?”

S. The Chief of Sinners, sir! (1 Tim. i. 15.)

C. Yes, but of what denomination are you?

S. I am a Christian, sir. (Acts xi, 26.)

C. No doubt of that ; but I mean, What is your persuasion ?

S. I am *persuaded*, sir, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. viii. 38, 39.)

C. Tell me, then, what is your Creed ?

S. The Word of God, sir. (2 Tim. iii. 16, 17 ; Heb. iv. 12.)

C. Where do you meet ?

S. In the Holiest of all. (Heb. x. 19.)

The Clergyman being unable to make anything of this sick soldier, turned away declaring that the man *must* be mad. But was he mad ? Surely not. He knew himself to be the Chief of Sinners. His career had been a fearful one, and he was therefore not ashamed to confess himself the Chief of Sinners, and unworthy of the least of God's mercies. He had learnt that Jesus, the Son of God, had died for just such as he, and having believed in Jesus, he found that he was *justified* from *all things*, and *had* peace with God. (Rom. v. 1 ; Acts xiii

38, 39.) The Blood of Jesus *had* cleansed him from *all* his sins, though they had been as scarlet and red like crimson. And not only did he know that his sins were forgiven, but that he was also a *new* creature in Christ. (2 Cor. v. 17.) He had been born again, and had been made one with Christ—made alive together with Christ. (Ephes. ii. 5.) He was a member of Christ's body, of His flesh, and of His bones, (Ephes. v. 30,) and therefore a member of the Church of the Living God. (Ephes. i. 22, 23.) Any other Church membership he knew nothing about, and did not wish to know; hence his simple answer to the question—Of what denomination are you? “I am a Christian, sir.”

This Christian found, too, that there was no end to the blessings wherewith God had blessed him in Christ. He read, that God *had* blessed him with the best of pasture, where he was endued with no less than *all* spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. (Ephes. i. 3.) And having believed what Jesus the Good Shepherd had said, that He gave to His sheep *eternal* life, and they should never perish, his firm *persuasion* clearly was, that nothing would

ever separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus ; and he was not ashamed to own the great love of God which had saved one who had been so far away from Him.

The more he knew of his God and Saviour the stronger his confidence became, and therefore he would have no Articles or Catechisms of man's arrangement for *his* Creed. The Word of God was all-sufficient for him, and therefore the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, would he have as his Creed. Would to God there were many more such, who would just sit down in subjection to the teaching of the Holy Ghost, who dwelleth in and with His people, in order that He might glorify Jesus, take of His things, and shew them to them, and lead them into all truth. (John xvi. 13—15.)

And then, as to his Place of Worship. He had read in the Bible—God's Word—that God no longer dwelleth in temples *made with hands*, (Acts xvii. 24,) but that the Lord, and not man, had pitched the true tabernacle in heaven ; and that was the Christian's proper Place of Worship in this day of grace. (Heb. viii. 2 ; x. 19—22.) By faith and by the power of the

Holy Ghost he was there, too, in fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ—seated in Christ Jesus. (Ephes. ii. 6 ; 1 John i. 3.) Now we have boldness to enter into the Holiest by this new and living way, even Jesus, who by His death has rent in twain the veil of the Temple, and opened the heavenlies to all believers in Jesus. All other forms of worship of men, however good they may seem, are really nothing, and even worse than nothing, and in no way acceptable to God, for it is after the flesh, and “God is a Spirit, and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” As to the earthly Place of Worship, the simplest is the best—the freer from human decoration, and the like, the better ; for all these things only attract the natural eye, and tend to the satisfying of the flesh, which is indeed hateful to God. May the Lord in His grace be pleased to bless this little paper to the comfort and edification of many Christians, and lead them to enter more fully into the deep things of God, and into the *enjoyment* of His richest blessings, wherewith He hath blessed His children.

E.C.

Since writing this, I have received a note from the soldier above referred to, an extract from which I add in order to show what unspeakable blessings our God has blessed His children with.

Aldershot, 24th August, 1865.

Dear Mr. —,

I take the liberty of writing to you in return, returning you my heartfelt thanks for your kindness in sending me those *Precious Truths*. Oh! dear brother, how our hearts ought to flow out in gratitude to Him who has so greatly blessed us with *all* spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. Our place is where Jesus is, at the right hand of the Father in glory. (Eph. ii. 5, 6.) Oh! what a wonderful thought it is, that we are actually the Body of Him who sits there, who is now blessing us with all spiritual blessings in Christ. I am sure, dear brother, that the Lord has only just revealed *Truth* to me. Oh! fool and slow of heart I have been this long time. To think that the Father has loved me so that He should have run and met me. I am sure that I never ran after Him. He has put the best robe on me that He has got, and that is the

Robt Jesus. (Gal. iii. 27.) And He wants us to live very near to Himself, that the Lord may be glorified in Jesus. So now, whatsoever we do let us do it for the glory of the Lord. I feel just now, dear brother, that it is no use (as it were) halting between two opinions; so if every one forsakes me, I know who said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee, for when thy father and thy mother forsake thee, then the Lord will take thee up." That was just my case. Oh, what love was here made manifest, when Jesus brought me out of the miry clay, and set my feet on the rock Christ Jesus. And, oh, may this same Jesus give me abundant grace, so that I may be enabled to *enjoy* all the spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Jesus. There is a subject on my mind that I can't shake off, neither would I like to do so;—the Coming of our Lord. It is a subject that I have never been enabled to go much into, but the Lord has shewn me that it would be profitable for me; so would you kindly send me a book or tract on the subject. * * * * *

Believe me your humble brother
in our risen Lord,

By the same Author.

TRACTS FOR CHRISTIANS.

- CHRIST ALL IN ALL. A Chart. 2d.
WHAT IS MAKING GOD A LIAR? $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
JUSTIFICATION BY THE DEATH OF CHRIST. 1d.
THE COMING OF CHRIST TO TAKE TO HIMSELF HIS BRIDE.
A Chart. 1d.
WHY, SIR, IT'S BETTER AND BETTER. 1d.
THE CHRISTIAN'S POSITION IN THE WORLD. 1d.
DEATH AND LIFE—UNION AND GLORY. 2d.
NONE CAST OUT. 1s. 6d. per 100.
Do. do. In a Book. 4s. per 100.

All the above at W. H. BROOM'S, 34, Paternoster Row.

- THE DISEASE AND ITS CURE. 8d. per 100.
A DYING CHRIST AND A LIVING CHRIST. 8d. per 100.
-

GOSPEL TRACTS—SEMI-SCRIPTURE.

- HOME TRUTHS. 1—9. 4d. per 100.
ME AND MY. 4d. per 100.
Do. do. In a Book. $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
THE PRISONER. 4d. per 100.

W. GIBLING, the Triangle, Hackney.

REPRINTS FROM THE "LONDON MESSENGER."

- THE NEW CREATION, THE BELIEVER'S MEETNESS FOR
HEAVEN. 1d.
THE ELECT; OR, HOW MAY I KNOW THAT I AM ONE
OF THEM? 1d.
THE GLORY OF GOD'S GRACE. 1d.
-

W. H. BROOM, 34, Paternoster Row.