

THE CHAPMAN WEEKLY SERMON.

The Pastor-Evangelist Furnishes a Discourse of Unusual Power and Eloquence.

New York City.—The following readable and helpful sermon is by the Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, the best known evangelist in the country and one of the most popular pulpit orators of New York. It is entitled "A Narrow Escape," and was preached from the text, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2: 3.

The wonder of wonders in this world is the plan of salvation for the sinner through Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful that the man with the greatest mind the world has ever known has never yet been able to think his way through it, and at the same time it is so simple that the smallest child in your home can appreciate enough of it to be saved.

The first chapter of Hebrews presents to us the dignity of Christ. He is at the right hand of God; He is better than the angels; when the elements have melted with a fervent heat, He still exists; when the heavens have been rolled together as a scroll, He shall still be the very power of God. With such a description as this in the first chapter we come naturally to the first part of the second chapter. Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard lest at any time we should let them slip.

A Cunard steamer was making her way across the Atlantic Ocean when the passengers were startled with a cry of "man overboard." Immediately every one was filled with excitement. One man sprang to the edge of the vessel and shouted, "I will give a thousand pounds to any one who will save the man that is sinking, for he is my brother." Every sailor was ready to throw himself into the sea if only he could win the reward and save the man. The captain manned the lifeboat, and soon a cheer went up because they had laid hands upon the sinking one. The lifeboat came near the great steamer, ropes were fastened around the man and the signal was given to lift him up. Just as they were reaching out their hands to make his salvation sure the ropes slipped, and falling he struck his head upon the lifeboat, bounded into the sea and was gone forever. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews must have had some such picture as this in his mind when he said, "We ought to give the more earnest heed lest at any time we should let them slip." I have known of people coming nearer to the kingdom of God than that, just one step and they would have been saved, but they slipped away, and then gave up hope.

There are three words around which my thoughts would centre, Great, Escape and Neglect.

I. It is a great salvation because it discloses to us a great Saviour, shows us how we may be saved from great sin, and also reveals how we may be restored to great holiness and happiness.

First, it is great in its author. The name of an author will frequently sell a book, and the name of the author of the plan of salvation ought to commend it to every one. If He is the author two things are true. First that we need not be afraid of Him. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Luther tells us of the little girl, the child of the man who printed his first Bible. He was a member of the Church of Rome, and the child had been taught that God could only be approached by means of penance and sacrifice. One day in the printer's office she found a little crumpled piece of paper which contained a part of this verse, which Luther called the "Gospel in a nutshell," all she found was, "God so loved the world that He gave—". It produced a great impression upon her. One day her mother heard her singing and asked the secret of her happiness. She answered by showing her the little piece of paper, and her mother said, "What does it mean?" for, she said, "it does not tell us what He gave." The child's reply was, "If He loved us well enough to give us anything, we need not be afraid of Him."

Again, if God is the author, His is the only way of salvation. Men decide to come to God by the way of reformation, or by the power of resolution, but this profits nothing, for reformation may touch the present, and may possibly avail for the future, but it cannot touch the past. If a man is in your debt \$1500 and comes to tell you that he has decided never to go into debt again, you may tell him that he is making a fine resolution, but you will not tell him that his good resolution pays his indebtedness to you, for that is a transaction of the past. The wonderful thing about the plan of salvation is that it provides an atonement touching the sins of the present, makes provision for the future, and blotting out the transgressions of the past. It is great also in its sacrifice. The way back to God has always been sprinkled with blood. Study the Old Testament and you will find this is true. But when the sins of men became so great that the blood of bulls and goats would not suffice then Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.

It was my privilege some time ago to preach to the convicts in the State Penitentiary of Tennessee. I said to them I can give you the secret of getting almost any amount of money, and their faces instantly were a study, for the most of them were in prison for trying to get money in their own way. But this is the secret I gave them. Take a piece of paper and write down upon it the amount of money you want, the length of time you want it, sign your name to it and carry it to the bank. But this will profit you nothing, because you have not found the secret. It is thus frequently that men stand before God and ask to be saved. If you will take that piece of paper to some one whose name stands for money, then have him write his name upon the back of it and carry it to the bank, you will be surprised to see what a different position you have, and you will receive the money, not because of what you are, but because of what your security is. It is thus we have our standing before God; our security is perfect, and simple faith unites us to Him.

It is great also in its pardon and forgiveness. Pardon means more with God than with men. With men a pardon may open the prison doors and send the guilty one back to his home, but if he is a murderer the chances are he will have a few peaceful nights, and then in his dreams as well as in his waking moments his sin will be before him. This is because he is pardoned and not justified. When God pardons us He justifies freely and forever. And forgiveness means more with God than with men. When we forgive we constantly remember the one who has sinned against us, but God forgives and remembers against us our transgressions no more forever.

A distinguished minister, in preaching to men specially, told the story of his own

sin and made her wish to think that he was her son. Then told how God had forgiven him, and when he made his appeal the effect was profound. His officers gathered around him to say kind words about his sermon, but when they left there came an old woman with gray hair and bent form. She threw her arms about his neck and said, "My son, why did you tell it; you never was bad in all this world?" and this was his mother. He had almost broken her heart, and yet for her mother's love she had forgotten it all. This was a picture of God remembering our transgressions no more forever. The Scriptures say when we come to Him our sins are passed into the depths of the sea. This must be where they never can be found. They are cast behind God's back, so that now He is between the sinner and his sins. They are taken from him as far as the east is from the west, a distance which cannot be measured.

When preaching one day in Philadelphia, in the Young Men's Christian Association, the Secretary told me of a man sitting in the rear of the room, a most awful sight to behold. He had been sleeping in the streets, but the services had touched him and he came to Christ. He became an honored member of my own church. He was a professor of mathematics, and had been slain by the power of strong drink. It was my custom to hold a service every Sunday morning for men in that church, and one morning I told them that God had cast their sins as far from them as the east from the west. Then I turned to this old professor and asked him if he could tell me how far that was. He instinctively reached for his pencil and his note book, then suddenly burst into tears, saying, "It can't be measured. For if you put your stake here with the east before you and the west behind you, you can go around the world and come back again to the stake, and the east is still before you and the west behind you." "Thank God," said he, "that is where my sins have gone."

It has become somewhat unpopular in these days to preach concerning the lost world, but it is not what I think I must preach, rather what the Bible states. "I have an argument with you," said a man who had listened to the minister preaching. "What is it?" said the minister. "I do not believe what you said about the lost world." "Oh," said the minister, "you have an argument with God, not with myself." And since it is true, therefore, that God speaks continually and warns constantly, is it not right that I should present the claims of the great salvation?

II. Neglect. It is possible for one to so constantly neglect God's appeals that after a while his heart will become like a stone. It is said that the little birds that build their nest in the Trinity steeple scarcely lift their heads when the chimes ring out, because they have become so accustomed to the ringing of the bells. An one may become so accustomed to Christ and His story that he may hear it with perfect indifference. I am on the river in a boat and the rapids are before me. I need only neglect the oars to be lost. I am in a burning building, and in order that I may be lost I need only neglect the fire escape. I am a sinner, and if I am to be lost finally it is only necessary that I should neglect Him who died that I might live.

In the city of Minneapolis I stood some years ago looking at the ruins of the Minneapolis Tribune building, and heard the story of those men who perished because they were on the upper floor gathering together important papers and waited too long to descend by the elevator, and even too long to come down by the fire escape. But at last they started, nine of them. The last man could not hold on to the hot iron of the fire escape, and in falling struck those beneath him, and the nine perished, all because they neglected.

III. Escape. How shall we escape? This is the important question, and the answer is written in large letters throughout God's word. First, stop trying to be a Christian and trust Him, trust Him who promises to save you.

When Mr. Moody was going through an after meeting in Scotland he saw two girls crying. Stopping to assist them if he could one of them said she wanted to be a Christian, and taking out his Bible he asked her if she could receive God's promise in John 5: 24. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life. She told him she could. The next night he found them in the same place and was curious to know if they were still in the darkness. He heard the girl of the night before saying, "I say, lassie, do just as I did, grasp a promise and hold on to it, and He will save you." And this is true for us all.

Again, if we would have Christ save us we must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. To believe in Him is not enough; to believe on Him is to throw ourselves at His feet, by faith lay hold of Him. And having done this, He will be true to His word, and your name shall be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Spiritual Points. Prayer is the abiding background in the life of the Christian.

Prayer is a holy art, in which the best of us are but beginners.

When God plans our way, He will not neglect to provide for our wants.

God never makes us feel our weakness except to lead us to seek strength from Him.

When we make all the centre of life, God becomes a mere point on a far-off circumference.

The ground of the Christian's hope is God's word and God's oath, sealed by His love.

If God puts you in a dark place it may be a compliment to the light that is in you.—Ram's Horn.

Prayed For a Revival.

It is said that in a certain town in New York a good many years ago there occurred a great revival of religion, the work beginning without any known cause. The inquiry was made, "Who is praying?" This work must be in answer to somebody's prayers." It was afterwards learned that two old church members, who lived one mile apart, had made arrangements to meet half way between them in a piece of thick bushes every evening at sundown to pray God to revive His work. Their prayers were answered, and one hundred and fifty were added, during the months of July, August and September, to the church.

The Pentecostal revival did not begin with preaching, but with prayer.

Service.

The old idea of service was that it was degrading. With Christ came the change. And his announcement that the perfect life is one of service for others has been confirmed by nature. Not a molecule exists for its own sake only, but for other parts. The ideal is one of service.—The Rev. James Grant, Watertown, Mass.

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Don't stay on or near the surface, but goes in through the muscles and tissues to the bone and drives out all soreness and inflammation.



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or, in fact, all Lameness and Soreness of your body there is nothing that will drive out the pain and inflammation so quickly as

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overcomes the ailments of horses and all domestic animals. In fact, it is a flesh healer and pain killer no matter who or what the patient is.

I have used Ripans Tablets with so much satisfaction that I can cheerfully recommend them. Have been troubled for about three years with what I called bilious attacks coming on regularly once a week. Was told by different physicians that it was caused by bad teeth, of which I had several. I had the teeth extracted, but the attacks continued. I had seen advertisements of Ripans Tablets in all the papers but had no faith in them, but about six weeks since a friend induced me to try them. Have taken but two of the small 5-cent boxes of the Tablets and have had no recurrence of the attacks. Have never given a testimonial for anything before, but the great amount of good which I believe has been done me by Ripans Tablets induces me to add mine to the many testimonials you doubtless have in your possession now.

A. T. DeWitt.

I have been a great sufferer from constipation for over five years. Nothing gave me any relief. My feet and legs and abdomen were bloated so I could not wear shoes on my feet and only a loose dress. I saw Ripans Tablets advertised in our daily paper, bought some and took them as directed. Have taken them about three weeks and there is such a change! I am not constipated any more and I owe it all to Ripans Tablets. I am thirty seven years old, have no occupation, only my household duties and nursing my sick husband. He has had the dropsy and I am trying Ripans Tablets for him. He feels some better but it will take some time, he has been sick so long. You may use my letter and name as you like.

Mrs. MARY GORMAN CLARK.

I have been suffering from headaches ever since I was a little girl. I could never ride in a car or go into a crowded place without getting a headache sick at my stomach. I heard about Ripans Tablets from an aunt of mine who was taking them for catarrh of the stomach. She had found such relief from their use she wished me to take them too, and I have been doing so since last October, and will say they have completely cured my headaches. I am twenty-nine years old. You are welcome to use this testimonial.

Mrs. J. BROOKMYER.

My seven-year-old boy suffered with pains in his head, constipation and complained of his stomach. He could not eat like children of his age do and what he did eat did not agree with him. He was thin and of a saffron color.

Reading some of the testimonials in favor of Ripans Tablets, I tried them. Ripans Tablets not only relieved but actually cured my youngster, the headaches have disappeared, bowels are in good condition and he never complains of his stomach. He is now a red, chubby-faced boy. This wonderful change I attribute to Ripans Tablets. I am satisfied that they will benefit any one (from the cradle to old age) if taken according to directions.

E. W. PIERCE.

I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefit I have derived from Ripans Tablets. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tablets does it. After one of my cases I found them completely run down. Acting on the advice of Mr. Geo. Bower, Ph. G., 588 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tablets with grand results.

Miss BESSIE WIEDMAR.

Mother was troubled with heartburn and indigestion, caused by indigestion, for a good many years. One day she saw a testimonial in the paper in favor of Ripans Tablets. She determined to give them a trial, was greatly relieved by their use and now takes the Tablets regularly. She keeps a few cartons Ripans Tablets in the house and says she will not be without them. The heartburn and indigestion which was formerly so great a burden for her. Our whole family take the Tablets regularly, especially after a hearty meal. My mother is fifty years of age and is enjoying the best of health and spirits; also eats hearty meals, an impossibility before she took Ripans Tablets.

ASTON H. BLAUKER.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABLETS packed in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced set is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tablets) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABLETS) will be sent for five cents. RIPANS TABLETS may also be had of some grocers, general storekeepers, news agents and at some liquor stores and barber shops. They banish pain, induce sleep and prolong life. One gives relief.

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