

Thoughts from Hope...

THE IMMUTABLE LAW OF GOD • CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS • THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES • THE NON-IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL • THE SANCTUARY

Greetings, Friends!

We pray that this issue of HOPE for you finds you doing well, and rejoicing in the joy of our Savior's love. Winter has seemed to play tricks with us in the past couple months—going from lots of snow to almost spring-like weather. No matter the weather, we are thankful that God is in control and that He continues to lead and guide our footsteps.

Our theme for this issue is "Repentance." Building on the theme of our last issue (Ye must be born again), we see that as God brings us through the process of being born again, His goodness and love leads us to repentance. When we truly see the enormity of what our sin cost Heaven, we are led to humbly bow before God and repent of our sins. The good news is that there is forgiveness with God. It is not a stingy afterthought—it is a gift He longs to give to all His children. We pray that this issue will encourage you in your walk with Jesus—that you may sense an even fuller measure of just how much He loves you.

Blessings,

Hope International Team

About Hope for You...

HOPE for you is a monthly publication of Hope International. We are a non-profit ministry, seeking to share the love of God through active ministry in our community and beyond.

We believe that God has a plan and purpose for His people in these tumultuous times, and we seek to spread an encouraging word to uplift Christ and His truth. We have an extensive health ministry, and believe that God's will is for all His children to "Prosper and be in health," (3 John 2) even as our souls prosper in following His will and guidance.

We joyfully accept tax-deductible donations to advance the cause of Christ.

HOPE for you is free of charge for all who donate or order products.

We would be delighted to send your friends or family a complimentary three-issue trial subscription. Just email or send us their names and addresses.

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When a wanderer is found by the great Shepherd of the sheep, heaven and earth unite in thanksgiving and rejoicing.

-E.G. White

Words of Inspiration

The Goodness of God

The shepherd who discovers that one of his sheep is missing does not look carelessly upon the flock that is safely housed, and say, "I have ninety and nine, and it will cost me too much trouble to go in search of the straying one. Let him come back, and I will open the door of the sheepfold, and let him in." No; no sooner does the sheep go astray than the shepherd is filled with grief and anxiety. He counts and recounts the flock. When he is sure that one sheep is lost, he slumbers not. He leaves the ninety and nine within the fold, and goes in search of the straying sheep. The darker and more tempestuous the night and the more perilous the way, the greater is the shepherd's anxiety and the more earnest his search. He makes every effort to find that one lost sheep.

With what relief he hears in the distance its first faint cry. Following the sound, he climbs the steepest heights, he goes to the very edge of the precipice, at the risk of his own life. Thus he searches, while the cry, growing fainter, tells him that his sheep is ready to die. At last his effort is rewarded; the lost is found. Then he does not scold it because it has caused him so much trouble. He does not drive it with a whip. He does not even try to lead it home. In his joy he takes the trembling creature upon his shoulders; if it is bruised

and wounded, he gathers it in his arms, pressing it close to his bosom, that the warmth of his own heart may give it life. With gratitude that his search has not been in vain, he bears it back to the fold.

Thank God, He has presented to our imagination no picture of a sorrowful shepherd returning without the sheep. The parable does not speak of failure but of success and joy in the recovery. Here is the divine guarantee that not even one of the straying sheep of God's fold is overlooked, not one is left unsuccored. Every one that will submit to be ransomed, Christ will rescue from the pit of corruption and from the briers of sin.

Desponding soul, take courage, even though you have done wickedly. Do not think that perhaps God will pardon your transgressions and permit you to come into His presence. God has made the first advance. While you were in rebellion against Him, He went forth to seek you. With the tender heart of the shepherd He left the ninety and nine and went out into the wilderness to find that which was lost. The soul, bruised and wounded and ready to perish, He encircles in His arms of love and joyfully bears it to the fold of safety.

It was taught by the Jews that before God's love is extended to the sinner, he must first repent. In their view, repentance is a work by which men earn the favor of Heaven. And it was this thought that led the Pharisees to exclaim in astonishment and anger. "This man receiveth sinners." According to their ideas He should permit none to approach Him but those who had repented. But in the parable of the lost sheep, Christ teaches that salvation does not come through our seeking after God but through God's seeking after us. "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way." Romans 3:11, 12. We do not repent in order that God may love us, but He reveals to us His love in order that we may repent.

When the straying sheep is at last brought home, the shepherd's gratitude finds expression in melodious songs of rejoicing. He calls upon his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." So when a wanderer is found by the great Shepherd of the sheep, heaven and earth unite in thanksgiving and rejoicing.

"Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." You Pharisees, said Christ, regard yourselves as the favorites of heaven. You think yourselves secure in your own righteousness. Know, then, that if you need no repentance, My mission is not to you. These poor souls who feel their poverty and sinfulness, are the very ones whom I have come to rescue. Angels of heaven are interested in these lost ones whom you despise. You complain and sneer when one of these souls joins himself to Me; but know that angels rejoice, and the song of triumph rings through the courts above.

The rabbis had a saying that there is rejoicing in heaven when one who has sinned against God is destroyed; but Jesus taught that to God the work of destruction is a strange work. That in which all heaven delights is the restoration of God's own image in the souls whom He has made.

When one who has wandered far in sin seeks to return to God, he will encounter criticism and distrust. There are those who will doubt whether his repentance

is genuine, or will whisper, "He has no stability; I do not believe that he will hold out." These persons are doing not the work of God but the work of Satan, who is the accuser of the brethren. Through their criticisms the wicked one hopes to discourage that soul, and to drive him still farther from hope and from God. Let the repenting sinner contemplate the rejoicing in heaven over the return of the one that was lost. Let him rest in the love of God and in no case be disheartened by the scorn and suspicion of the Pharisees.

The rabbis understood Christ's parable as applying to the publicans and sinners; but it has also a wider meaning. By the lost sheep Christ represents not only the individual sinner but the one world that has apostatized and has been ruined by sin. This world is but an atom in the vast dominions over which God presides, yet this little fallen world--the one lost sheep--is more precious in His sight than are the ninety and nine that went not astray from the fold. Christ, the loved Commander in the heavenly courts, stooped from His high estate, laid aside the glory that He had with the Father, in order to save the one lost world. For this He left the sinless worlds on high, the ninety and nine that loved Him, and came to this earth, to be "wounded for our transgressions" and "bruised for our iniquities." (Isaiah 53:5.) God gave Himself in His Son that He might have the joy of receiving back the sheep that was lost.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1. And Christ says, "As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" (John 17:18)--to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ, . . . for His body's sake, which is the church." Colossians 1:24. Every soul whom Christ has rescued is called to work in His name for the saving of the lost. This work had been neglected in Israel. Is it not neglected today by those who profess to be Christ's followers?

How many of the wandering ones have you, reader, sought for and brought back to the fold? When you turn from those who seem unpromising and unattractive, do you realize that you are neglecting the souls for whom Christ is seeking? At the very time when you

turn from them, they may be in the greatest need of your compassion. In every assembly for worship, there are souls longing for rest and peace. They may appear to be living careless lives, but they are not insensible to the influence of the Holy Spirit. Many among them might be won for Christ.

If the lost sheep is not brought back to the fold, it wanders until it perishes. And many souls go down to ruin for want of a hand stretched out to save. These erring ones may appear hard and reckless; but if they had received the same advantages that others have had, they might have revealed far more nobility of soul, and greater talent for usefulness. Angels pity these wandering ones. Angels weep, while human eyes are dry and hearts are closed to pity.

O the lack of deep, soul-touching sympathy for the tempted and the erring! O for more of Christ's spirit, and for less, far less, of self!

The Pharisees understood Christ's parable as a rebuke to them. Instead of accepting their criticism of His work, He had reproved their neglect of the publicans and sinners. He had not done this openly, lest it should close their hearts against Him; but His illustration set before them the very work which God required of them, and which they had failed to do. Had they been true shepherds, these leaders in Israel would have done the work of a shepherd. They would have manifested the mercy and love of Christ, and would have united with Him in His mission. Their refusal to do this had proved their claims of piety to be false. Now many rejected Christ's reproof; yet to some His words brought conviction. Upon these, after Christ's ascension to heaven, the Holy Spirit came, and they united with His disciples in the very work outlined in the parable of the lost sheep.

—Е. G. White



Take Away All Iniquity

Take Thou away my sin, O God,
Purge out all dross and tin;
Make me submissive to Thy Word,
Create me pure within.

Cause me to hunger for Thy Grace
To long for purity,
To seek and find Thee as Thou art,
And walk with Deity.

Be to my soul as dew to grass;
O let me drink of Thee,
And know Thy glory, O my God,
Thy full salvation see!

Complete in me Thy work of love, Transform me by Thy power; Teach me to live for Thee alway, Yield to Thee hour by hour.

O Lord, I give my heart to Thee, My will to Thee resign; I am now fully Thine, O Lord, Make Thy life fully mine.

-C. P. Bollman

(Originally published in *The Review and Herald*, July 11, 1912)

Zinc Chelated

You may already be familiar with Zinc as a support for your immune system, however, did you know that Zinc is an essential trace mineral and is one of the most abundant found in the body? Discover the wide variety of ways that Zinc may improve all aspects of your family's health!

TABLETS | PRIC | \$9.99

Suggested Adult Usage: Take 1-2 tablets daily with food.



Zinc May Improve:

Eye Health - It plays a vital role in bringing vitamin A from the liver to the retina in order to produce melanin, a protective pigment in the eyes. **Zinc** is highly concentrated in the eye, mostly in the retina and choroid, the vascular tissue layer lying under the retina.

Skin Health - Zinc is like a 24-hour, on-call skin mechanic! It helps repair damaged tissues and is essential for wounds. Without zinc, your body's inside and outside repair time and possible health costs may go up!

Respiratory Support - Zinc is found in the mucous secretions of the respiratory system and on the surfaces of lungs and throat. It has an antimicrobial effect, so it helps to kill inhaled bacteria and viruses before they get a chance to take hold! Zinc is also secreted in the saliva and the mucous membranes of the digestive system to kill any ingested invaders.

Athletic Performance - Adequate **zinc** directly affects athletic performance and strength development from training because it plays a primary role in anabolic hormone production.

Male Reproductive Health - Zinc is a critical mineral for robust testosterone levels, and the cells of the male prostate require a very high concentration of zinc to work optimally.

Female Reproductive Health - In women, zinc is involved in the growth process of the oocyte or egg. If women are zinc deficient, the egg won't mature properly and ovulation will be impeded, causing infertility. Adequate zinc allows women to use estrogen and progesterone efficiently, supporting reproductive health and ensuring that estrogen does what it's supposed to do in the body.

Healthy Cell Growth And Immune System - Ananda Prasad, a leading researcher in the field of **zinc** and health, notes that simply ensuring our **zinc** levels are adequate can help a number of the most severe health problems, especially unhealthy cell growth and poor immune function.

Cardiovascular Health - Zinc is vital to maintain the health of cardiovascular cells and the endothelium. The endothelium is the thin layer of cells that lines the blood vessels and plays a major role in circulation.

Pancreas Support - **Zinc** is needed for the healthy function of most hormones, including insulin.

Antioxidant Effects - Zinc is an excellent antioxidant. The purpose of an antioxidant is to get rid of free radicals that cause damage to cells in the body by bonding with them and neutralizing them.

Detoxifying The Body of Heavy Metals - The super antioxidant effects of **zinc** allow it to efficiently remove toxins from the body and keep them from building up in tissue and causing damage.

Boost Brain Function - Zinc plays an essential role in neurotransmitter function and helps maintain brain structure and health. It is necessary in the metabolism of melatonin, which regulates dopamine. Also, zinc is part of an enzyme that is necessary for the anabolism of fatty acids in the brain membrane. This is very important because a key part of supporting brain health and function is to ensure the membrane gets the nutrients it needs.

Mood - Dopamine production, which is partly regulated by **zinc**, is a chemical that boosts energy, mood, and reward-driven learning.

Zinc For Children:

Zinc is a commonly ignored mineral in children who need help concentrating. Studies have shown an improvement in social behavior and children were less hyperactive and impulsive. Research conducted at the University of Toronto and published in the journal Neuron, revealed that zinc has a crucial role in regulating how neurons communicate with one another and could affect how memories are formed and how we learn.

Why Chelated?

Chelated zinc means that an amino acid is attached to the mineral to enhance its absorption into cells.

Chelated zinc shows much improved levels of efficiency and effectiveness when compared to other types of zinc supplement.

SUPPLEMEN Serving Size: 1 tablet Servings Per Containe		,
Amount Per Serving		% DV*
Zinc Chelated	50 mg	333%

Random Facts:

- 35% 45% of adults age 60 and over are believed to not get enough zinc. 30% 50% of alcoholics are deficient.
- Zinc is an essential mineral found in every tissue of the body 60% of the body's zinc is
 found in the muscles that support your skeleton and 30% is in the bones. So, zinc plays an
 important part in keeping you upright. The remaining 10% is found in the teeth, hair, nails,
 skin, liver, leukocytes (white blood cells), prostate, sperm and testes.
- · Consuming refined sugar requires **zinc** to metabolize, in turn, reducing **zinc** stores.
- Have you or someone you know been struggling with hearing loss? Zinc may be the answer
 to your prayers! Melvyn Werbach, M.D. found that zinc deficiency is associated with some
 types of hearing loss. Try Zinc today and hear what you've been missing!
- Scientists say animals suffering from a zinc deficiency must eat about 50% more food to gain the same weight as an animal supplied with sufficient zinc.

Words of Health

"It is Just So Annoying!"

by Dr. Kaye Olson, ND

At Hope for Health, we have heard the phrase, "It is just so annoying," spoken to us on the health consultation line more often than can be counted. It is usually referring to the need to take multiple trips to the bathroom at night, or other annoying bladder conditions. If this annoyance is part of your life, please read on! We often just learn to live with issues that could be eliminated and result in a more joyful existence!

First off, if you are having bladder issues you should consult your physician to receive a proper diagnosis. Second of all, the following tips are always a good idea to help with current health problems or to avoid health problems in the future:

Don't smoke. We acknowledge that this is a difficult habit to break!

However, smoking increases your risk for numerous health issues and may lead to prostate issues that could have been avoided if you had not smoked. It's also important to avoid exposure to secondhand smoke, air pollution, and exposure to chemicals (such as in the workplace).

Eat a healthy diet. Choose vegetables, fruits, whole grains, high-fiber foods and plant-based sources of protein, such as beans and nuts. (All fruits and vegetables contain protein.)

Limit foods high in saturated fat, refined sugar, and sodium.



Maintain a healthy weight. Losing excess pounds and keeping them off can lower your risk of prostate and heart problems, as well as other lifethreatening illnesses.

Get moving. Include physical activity in your daily routine. Exercise in any form helps your circulation and increases your ability to ward off serious health concerns.

Manage stress. If you feel constantly on edge or under assault, your lifestyle habits may suffer and so might your immune system. Take steps to reduce stress — work less and relax more! Spend time in quiet meditation and prayer.

Research has found that 35% - 45% of adults age 60 and over do not get enough zinc. Zinc can be your first line of defense, as the proper functioning of the prostate seems to rest with zinc. Zinc is a mineral that is found in higher concentration in the prostate than in any other part of the body. If your body does not receive enough zinc it may lead to adverse health issues.

Zinc is a well-known antioxidant and antimicrobial that likely gives the prostate the ability to ward off infection and stabilize inflammation. Zinc is also a critical mineral for robust testosterone levels, and the cells of the male prostate require a very high concentration of zinc to work optimally.

Hope for Health offers Zinc in our supplement line, you can find details about this essential trace mineral from the ad on page 8 of this publication.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, multiple trips to the bathroom can be an annoyance and hinder your lifestyle. Hope for Health has researched a wonderfully effective herb: Small Flowered Willow Herb. It has been shown to be a safe and effective way to maintain a healthy and normal prostate (often being effective when nothing else seems to work), and can even help with associated problems such as: incontinence, sexual function, and urinary urgency. Small Flowered Willow causes absolutely NO side effects and is one of the most

effective herbal remedies for maintaining prostate and urinary tract health.

We haven't forgotten about the women we hear from! Small Flowered Willow Herb is not just for men! It is an invaluable tool for women who suffer from kidney, bladder, or urinary problems!

Many women are affected by recurrent or persistent bladder and urinary issues, yet are unable to find relief. You may experience the horror of the big sneeze, or the belly laugh causing a dribble! Relief is available! Small Flowered Willow has been shown recently to be a potent anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory agent that tones and protects the entire urogenital system (which includes all of the reproductive organs such as the prostate, along with the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra). Please see the ad on page 11 of this publication for even more details about this amazing herb.

Another annoyance, particularly for women is hair loss. A miracle working little herb, Saw Palmetto has been proven many times over to regrow hair for women and men! A woman whose hair loss was so significant that she had to wear a hat at all times tried Saw Palmetto. It wasn't long before she called back excited to tell us that she was hat free and loving her new hair! Please see the ad on page 30 for more facts about Saw Palmetto.

As we close, please remember that God has given us these herbs and lifestyle methods, so that we can enjoy the benefits of annoyance free-health. Praise His name!

Dr. Kaye Olson and the Hope for Health staff are ready and willing to answer any product or health questions you may have. We are also happy to consult with you regarding any diet or lifestyle changes.

Please call 828-649-0278.

If you wish to order or would like a free copy of our informative catalog, please call, visit our website or fill out the order sheet at the back of this publication.

Small Flowered Willow



SIZE PRICE
3.5 OZ. TEA \$20.99
90 CAPSULES \$10.99
180 CAPSULES \$16.99
2 OZ. EXTRACT* \$20.99

*CONTAINS ALCOHOL

Do you want to make sure your prostate stays healthy and functioning properly? Prostate difficulties can cause bothersome and potentially dangerous health conditions! If you want to protect your prostate and give it the nutrients it needs to stay healthy and strong, try Small Flowered Willow! Centuries of use tell us it's one of the best herbs known for toning and revitalizing the prostate!

What is **Small Flowered Willow** Herb?

Epilobium parviflorum, better known as **Small Flowered Willow**, belongs to the Onagracerae (Willowherb or Evening Primrose) family and is found in Central and Eastern Europe and some areas of North America. As its name suggests, **Small Flowered Willow** is a small but very powerful baby pink-colored flower which has been used for centuries, particularly in Central Europe, as a folk remedy to promote a healthy prostate and improve the health of the kidneys, bladder, and entire urinary tract.

Until recently there had been no official studies to back the tall claims of these folk uses, but as science is shedding more light on the subject, this pretty little plant is becoming known throughout the natural health world as God's "manna" for the prostate! It has been shown to be a safe and effective way to maintain a healthy and normal prostate (often being effective when nothing else seems to work), and can even help with associated problems such as: incontinence, sexual function, and urinary urgency.

Small Flowered Willow Scientific Studies:

- A German 3 year study found that taking 160 mg. of Small Flowered Willow extract twice daily reduced nighttime urination in 73% of patients and improved urinary flow rate.
- In 1991, an article in the journal, Plant Medicine, confirmed Small Flowered Willow's antiinflammatory effects, and noted that it was "ten times more effective" than another common commercially-available pain reliever.
- In a double blind trial, 160 mg. of Small Flowered Willow extract taken twice daily was shown to help maintain a healthy prostate size just as effectively as its chemical counterpart, but with absolutely NO side effects!
- A 2009 article from the journal, Phytotherapy Research, showed that Small Flowered Willow extract showed a protective effect against oxidative damage and possessed powerful antiinflammatory properties.

Small Flowered Willow: It's Not Just For Men!

While **Small Flowered Willow** is of great benefit to the prostate in men, it is also an invaluable tool for women who suffer from kidney, bladder, or urinary problems! Many women are affected by recurrent or persistent bladder and urinary issues, yet are unable to find relief. That is, until now!

Small Flowered Willow has recently shown to be a potent anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory agent that tones and protects the entire urogenital system (which includes all of the reproductive organs such as the prostate, along with the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra). The active ingredients present in the **Small Flowered Willow** plant are not only good for the urogenital system, but also have a significant role to play in blood purification, lymphatic drainage, and boosting the body's immune response!

"I was getting up to use the bathroom about 10-15 times a night, consequently I never felt rested. It was affecting all aspects of my life. I was very discouraged! A friend told me about Hope for Health's **Small Flowered Willow Herb** – I was so desperate at that point that I was willing to try anything! Within days my trips to the bathroom at night went down to about 5 times, and then after a few weeks of taking this amazing product I only had to get up one time a night! My last visit to the doctor revealed much better test scores as well. I cannot say enough about how this herb improved my life!" ~ J.D.

Suggested Adult Usage:

Extract: Take 2 dropperfuls in the morning and evening on an empty stomach.

Capsules: Take 1-3 capsules in the morning and evening on an empty stomach.

Tea: Use 1 heaping teaspoon of tea per 16 oz. of boiling water, infused for a short time. 1 cup in the morning on an empty stomach, 1 cup in the evening, a half hour before each meal.

Small Flowered Willow:

- Is renowned for its ability to support a healthy prostate without decreasing the libido or causing harmful side effects like many other prostate products may do.
- Is beneficial to the entire urinary system, including the kidneys and bladder.
- Has the added benefit of being a natural analgesic, or pain reliever, which can help with a variety of urinary tract pains.
- Has been used for centuries in the form of a tea and tincture to help relieve discomforts such as pain when urinating, difficulty urinating, and inability to fully empty the bladder.

SUPPLEMENT FACTS Serving Size: 1 capsule Servings Per Container: 180 Amount Per Serving %DV Small Flowered Willow Herb 700 mg * *Daily Value not established. Weggie Capsule Ingredient: Pine Tree Pulp

Words of Wisdom

Sudden Death

Work began as usual that morning at the Liberty Homes Manufacturing Plant. A dozen mobile homes were under construction down the long assembly line. Starting with the floor, the homes would move down the track from one station to the next, walls being added on here, wiring and plumbing there, the roof, then siding, etc., until the finished product rolled out the doors at the end of the line.

I was busy wiring the walls as quickly as they were nailed in place, often having to wait for the carpenters to complete their work. One of the carpenters, Jack, a young man in his mid to late twenties, had only been on the job for a couple of months. From his appearance, it was obvious that he was not enjoying the rich experience of a follower of Christ. His countenance was hard—as though he had led a pretty tough life. Big and burly, language like a sailor, and his sleeveless shirt revealing powerful arms, Jack was not an easy person to get close to.

From time to time I would try to strike up a conversation with him, hoping to witness to him of the love of Christ. Although he never seemed very interested, I could see that beneath the rough exterior was a different man. Jack really wasn't the hateful person his appearance seemed to testify of him. Like many others, he was the product of a generation of young people that had yielded to the temptations of drugs, alcohol, gambling, etc. More than likely, a few fights and brawls also figured into the shaping

of the poor fellow's character. Beneath the facade, however, was an insecure, confused, and probably lonely individual.

As sometimes would happen, Jack was called up the line to either repair or finish something. That meant I would have to forget about wiring walls until he returned. Quickly turning my attention to the roof that had just been carried by hoist and nailed down atop the house in the next station, I climbed the scaffold to begin running wires through the rafters and down the walls beneath.

Suddenly the intercom came to life. "Man down in station ten! Man down in station ten! We need help right away!"

Turning to one of the roofers, I said, "Uh, oh. It sounds like someone is hurt!"

"Yea, and by the sound of it, it may be bad. C'mon. Let's go see what happened!" he replied as he holstered his hammer.

Descending the scaffold, we noticed that many were running toward station ten. It was obvious that something more than the ordinary injury had happened. Arriving there, we found a man lying limp and lifeless on the concrete floor. Two workers had already begun CPR, attempting to restore life with mouth to mouth resuscitation and chest compressions. Moving to where I could identify the victim, I saw that it was Jack. We learned later that an electrical short had caused the steel scaffold to become

charged. While jumping out of the house, he grabbed the scaffold with both hands to swing out and down to the floor. Instead, his hands clamped around the metal as the current ran through his body. He cried out, but before anyone could assess the problem and turn off the power, he was unconscious. When the power cord was unplugged, Jack fell lifeless to the ground.

As the two worked frantically and faithfully with CPR, the crowd began to grow into a large circle of perhaps 60-70 people. The mobile homes were pushed out of the way in both directions allowing for room, not just for onlookers, but for the ambulance squad that was already on its way. There was absolute silence save for the breathing and counting of the two administering the CPR. Everyone was hoping, perhaps praying, that Jack would revive. So far, there was no evidence of life.

Looking to heaven, I prayed for God to spare the unconscious man. Finally, I mustered the courage to break the ranks of the circle, slipping in to kneel at Jack's feet. Laying my hands on his legs, I continued there in prayer, silently pleading for the Lord of life to bring the breath of life back into his body. How long I was there praying, I cannot tell, but I returned to the circle when the ambulance squad arrived, not wanting to get in anyone's way.

The two workers yielded up the task to the medical technicians who proceeded to administer shocks to revive the heart. His body jerked and jolted with each shock, but it was futile. It was obvious that Jack was gone. A sick feeling came over all of us. Dead! And it could have been any one of us that day. Jack just happened to be the unfortunate one that was carried off to the





morgue. It was a grim reminder of how fragile our lives really are. He had no way of knowing that his last day on earth had come. I have no way of knowing why my prayers were not answered, but God has a purpose and a reason for everything. One day we'll understand.

Facing the Widow

The following morning the plant manager came to me. Placing his hand on my shoulder, he said, "I need you to come into the office with me."

I couldn't help but wonder what I had done. It was one thing to have my supervisor talk to me, but this was the manager. Had I not been doing my job well enough? I had always tried to be a conscientious employee, doing the best I could. "It must be something else," I thought to myself.

As we walked along, he put his arm around my shoulder and began to brief me. "I understand that you were praying for Jack yesterday. His wife is in my office right now. She heard that one of our men had prayed for him, and she has requested to speak with that man."

"Oh, my!" I replied. "I really don't know what to say to her."

"Well, I know that this will not be an easy thing for you to do. She is really shaken up. I would greatly appreciate it if you would speak to her, though."

"Sure," I said. "I'll do the best I can."

Entering his office, I was met by the grieving widow. Tears were coursing down her cheeks. Looking up at me from her chair she asked, "Are you the man who prayed for my husband?"

"Yes," I responded. "And I'm sure that others were, too."

"Please...I've got to know just one thing. Did he get right with the Lord before he died?" she managed to ask between sobs.

"I'm sorry ma'am. He never regained consciousness as long as I was there. I wish I could tell you differently. We should never underestimate what God is able to do, though, and we must leave all judgment with the Lord. I suppose the lesson for everyone is that we just don't know when our time will come. If we make our lives right with God today, we won't have to worry about what may happen to us. I'm really sorry."

I looked over at the manager. He closed his eyes and nodded understandingly.

"Thank you for praying," she said through her sobs as I turned to leave.

I walked back to my workstation doubting whether I had fulfilled my duty. Oh, how my heart ached. If only I could have given her some assurance—but how could I? False hope is worthless, if not dangerous. No one should be led to believe that salvation may be deferred until moments before dying. Deathbed conversions may be genuine in some cases, but are generally superficial. God knows the heart. If life were granted to the dying after such a conversion, would it last? Would there be a genuine change in the life?

The Bible warns us not to delay. There are too many like Jack whose lives are snuffed out unexpectedly. Don't run the risk of putting off until tomorrow what God would have you do right now. You are not guaranteed a tomorrow. "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:2.

With every rejection of Christ comes a hardening of the heart, making it that much more difficult for the Spirit of God to bring you to repentance. This is why relatively few are converted in their later years. While the heart is still open to His pleading, surrender yourself into His loving care. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts..." Hebrews 3:7-8.

Many don't realize the amazing gift of repentance that God offers the sinner. That's right—a gift. "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." "Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." "Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities." Acts 5:30-31; 11:18; 3:26. That turning away is the very heart of repentance, but you must allow Jesus to do it by a full surrender.

So, repentance is not something that originates with ourselves. First of all, had God not offered His Son to die for us, there would be no atonement, no opportunity to be reconciled to God. The gift of Jesus demonstrates the unfathomable love our heavenly Father has for mankind. His mercy and goodness lead us to repentance. If ever you have felt any remorse in your heart for sin, either against God or man, that remorse was a result of the Holy Spirit's work on your heart. The conscience is itself a gift to us from our Creator. The question is, What will we do with that conscience? How shall we respond to our remorse? Accept that gift of repentance and repent!

⁻Adapted from the booklet, *Though Your Sins be as Scarlet*, by F. A. Barnes.

Words from God

Repentance

1. Who are called to repentance?

"I came not to call the righteous, but *sinners* to repentance." Luke 5:32.

2. What accompanies repentance?

"And that repentance and *remission of sins* should be preached in His name among all nations." Luke 24:47.

3. By what means is sin made known?

"By the law is the knowledge of sin." Rom. 3:20.

4. How many are sinners?

"We have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin." Verse 9.

5. What do transgressors bring upon themselves?

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh *the wrath of God* upon the children of disobedience." Eph. 5:6.

6. Who awakens the soul to a sense of its sinful condition?

"When He [the Comforter] is come, He will reprove [convince, margin] the world of sin." John 16:8.

7. What are fitting inquiries for those convicted of sin?

"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 2:37; 16:30.

8. What replies does Inspiration return to these inquiries?

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 2:38; 16:31.

- 9. What will the truly repentant sinner be constrained to do?
- "I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin." Ps. 38:18.
- 10. What is the result of godly sorrow? "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation." 2 Cor. 7:10.
- 11. What does the sorrow of the world do? "The sorrow of the world worketh death." Same verse.
- 12. How does godly sorrow for sin manifest itself?

"For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what *carefulness* it wrought in you, yea, what *clearing of yourselves*, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." Verse 11.

- 13. What did John the Baptist say to the Pharisees and Sadducees when he saw them come to his baptism? "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Matt. 3:7.
- 14. What did he tell them to do? "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." Verse 8.

Note: "There can be no repentance without reformation. Repentance is a change of mind; reformation is a corresponding change of life." —Dr. Raleigh.

15. When God sent the Ninevites a warning message, how did they show their repentance, and what was the result? "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not." Jonah 3:10.

16. What leads sinners to repentance?

"Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*" Rom. 2:4

- 17. What promise is made to those who confess their sins?
- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 Jn. 1:9.
- 18. By what are we cleansed from sin?

"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

- 19. Toward whom are we to repent? "Repentance toward God." Acts 20:21
- 20. Toward whom must we exercise faith? "And faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21

Note: Repentance should be exercised "toward God," because men have sinned against God by transgressing His holy law. 1 John 3:4; 7:7-12. Faith should be exercised "toward our Lord Jesus Christ," because it is to that divine and ever-blessed Being that the sinner should look for salvation. Acts 4:12. It is when the sinner, with the eye of faith, views Jesus, through infinite love, and at an infinite sacrifice, opening up for him the way of salvation, that his heart is touched with the thought of how criminal a thing sin is, and that (if he yields to the strivings and entreaties of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith in the crucified) he is enabled to repent of his sins, and to apply to himself the merits of "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. Man needs grace and power superhuman and divine to repent unto salvation. And how is this grace and power secured? By faith in Him who says, "Without Me ye can do nothing." John 10:5. Saving faith must therefore be exercised in true repentance. Indeed, it is through saving faith that genuine repentance is effected. Consequently, when the Holy Spirit, adds "faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" to "repentance toward God," we are not to understand that men must wait until they have repented before exercising saving faith in Christ. To thus wait would be never to repent, never to exercise saving faith in Christ, never to be converted, and to be lost at last. If we keep faith in lively exercise, we shall know by blessed experience what are genuine repentance and genuine conversion, and shall "bring forth fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:18); but if we shut ourselves up to our own efforts and to our own works, faith, repentance, and conversion will be lacking, and instead of bringing forth fruits meet for repentance, we shall bring forth fruits from a heart that has not received the touch of converting grace—fruits that will bear the marks of rebellion against God, and against His righteous ways. While it is true that those who do not repent of their sins, cannot, scripturally, expect to be saved by faith in Christ, it is also true that it is by the same faith by which men repent that they claim and receive pardon, deliverance from sin, justification, and the spirit of adoption, and cherish the hope of final salvation.

21. How will one show that he has truly repented?

"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance [margin, answerable to the amendment of life]," Matt. 3:18.

Words of the Pioneers

God's Goodness

—Е. J. Waggoner

"Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Rom. 2:4.

It is very common for men to lay the blame of their sinful condition upon God; to say that they are just as God made them. This kind of talk is increasing, and the logical result is the denial of any future punishment for sin. But that such a position is directly contrary to Bible teaching, it needs only this verse to disprove. God cannot deny Himself, and therefore He cannot work at cross-purposes. He cannot at one time deliberately set about to undo that which He has once done. That He has deliberately set about the salvation of men, the entire Bible attests. He manifested His hatred for sin, and His desire to rescue men from it, by giving His Son to die. This was the supreme manifestation of His goodness to lead men to repentance. All this effort to save men from sin is utterly inconsistent with the theory that God is any way responsible for sin.

The apostle tells us plainly that "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin." Rom. 5:12. The terrible depth of sin into which man fell, and the first act of God's goodness to lead him from it, are brought to view in Gen. 3:15, where these words of the Lord to the serpent—Satan—are recorded: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed." The fact that God had to put enmity between man and Satan, shows that in the fall all of man's natural enmity to Satan had been obliterated.

God made man in His own image, both physically and spiritually; but when man yielded to the tempter, he deliberately rejected God, and became, body and soul, the servant of Satan. In that condition all his desires would have been for evil, and, like Satan and his angels, he would have had not the shadow of a desire to do right. Of course a simple offer of salvation from sin could not have been any benefit to a man in such a condition. "Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?" Of what use to offer freedom from sin to a man incapable of appreciating goodness? Therefore as the first act in the great plan of salvation, God put into the heart of man an enmity against Satan. It was purely an act of divine love. And since this enmity has been a part of the inheritance of every one of Adam's race, it follows that not a man has lived in earth, no matter how wicked, who was not just to the extent that he ever had a thought of goodness, a subject of the grace of God.

It is this enmity implanted in the heart of men by God, upon which the Spirit works when it strives with men. It is this seed which the Spirit waters into fruitfulness, in those who will yield to its influence. Thus the Spirit of God, through His goodness, is leading all men toward repentance. God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim. 2:4. But all men will not be saved. Thousands say to the Spirit: "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for Thee;" and still thousands more refuse to give it any recognition.

It is in this sense that God "is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." 1 Tim. 4:10. His love is bestowed alike upon all; to all He comes as a Saviour; but only those will be saved who will accept salvation. It is thus, also, that Christ is "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. Every man that has come into the world has had some rays of divine light shining into his heart, enough to have led him into the glorious liberty of the children of God, if he had followed it; and for that light he was indebted to the grace of God in Christ.

The goodness of God is thus set forth by the apostle Paul: "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of His grace, in His kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:1-7.

And that this goodness is manifested to men in sin, in order to deliver them from it, is shown also by these words to Titus: "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:3-7.

But where shall we stop, if we attempt to recount the goodness of God, which is manifested to lead men to repentance, since the whole Bible, like the whole earth, "is full of His goodness." Let us sum the whole matter up in one or two passages of Scripture. The first shall be Heb. 12:1-3:

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

What was the joy that was set before Christ? It seems as though the question is fully answered in Phil. 2:6, 7, which says that although Christ was in the form of God, He "thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant." The idea is, as expressed in the Revised Version, that He counted it not a prize, or a thing to be grasped or held to, to be equal with God; but He emptied Himself. The thought, then, in brief, is this:

Christ was equal with God, the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person. He was God. Before Him all the hosts of angels, whom He had created (Col. 1:16) bowed in adoration. His glory was the glory of the Father. John 17:5. Not a thing was there to mar the perfect peace of heaven, and nothing more could have been conceived to add to the perfect enjoyment of all its inhabitants. But when Christ looked upon the world of men "dead in trespasses and sins," treasuring up for themselves wrath against the day of wrath, and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, all this glory seemed to fade away. He did not count it as a thing at all to be desired, so long as men were perishing before His eyes without help. And so He divested Himself of all His glory, and submitted to degradation and death, in order that He might win a still greater joy.

Yes, even the joy of heaven could be increased, and that by removing the Joy of Heaven to earth, that earth's misery might be turned to joy. Who can estimate the depth of love that could count the immeasurable bliss of heaven as nothing compared with the joy of bringing, through reproach, ignominy and death, fallen men to share it with Him? And this is the goodness of God toward men. Ought it not to lead them to repentance? Yea, verily; and such will be its effect upon everyone who will but steadfastly look at it. Oh that men would

indeed look to Jesus, not once nor twice, but continually! Of such a look could it with truth be said, "There's life in a look."

And there is life. What power there is in the thought of God's love in Christ, to lift up the soul of the dependent, and to strengthen the weak. Human words cannot give any just conception of this great love, which has healing in it, for the mind cannot grasp it.

"For the love of God is broader Than the measure of man's mind; And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind." What, then, "shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

Originally published in *The Signs of the Times*, June 23, 1890.



A Puzzle for You...

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Joy
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Just
Prodigal
Renounce
Repent
Repentance

Righteous Savior Sheep Sin Sinfulness Sinner Sorrow Turn

Words for Life

Cepentance... "You cannot repent too

"The recognition of sin is the beginning of

salvation.

— Martin Luther

not know how soon it "When God gave Christ to our world, He gave in this one gift

- Thomas Fuller ALL THE TREASURES OF HEAVEN.

He held back nothing.

He can do no more than He has done to bring men to repentance.

He has no means

held in reserve for their

"I came not to call

the righteous.

but sinners to

repentance. —Jesus Christ salvation."

—Е. G. White

"Have you ever stood on the same plot of ground with the publican, crying—'God be merciful to me a sinner?"

— William Tiptaft

soon, because you do

may be too late."

"It is Satan's delight to tell me that once he's got me, he will keep me. But at that moment I can go back to God. And I know that if I confess my sins, God is faithful and just to forgive me." —Alan Redpath

"To do so the truest repentance."

— Martin Luther

"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow

to your procrastination." "What is the

— Augustine

message to the **Laodicean church?** 'Re zealous therefore and repent."

—W. W. Prescott

"It is the greatest and dearest blessing that ever God gave to men, that they may repent; and therefore to deny or to delay it is to refuse health when brought by the skill of the physician — to refuse liberty offered to us by our gracious Lord."

—Jeremy Taylor

"Repentance is more than just sorrow for the past; repentance is a change of mind and heart, a new life of denying self and serving the Savior as King in self's place."

- J. I. Packer

"Repentance is one of the first fruits of saving grace." _Е. G. White

Words for Parents

A Servant's Heart

by Kathleen Vess

I have been trying to teach my son to have a servant's heart, to help others even if they can't return the favor. My son is little yet. He is just 5 years old, and there is only so much he can do. The seed has been sown, and it is a tender seedling that needs spiritual sunshine, water, and weeding.

One sign it is taking root is my son's actions in a doctor's office. An older lady dropped her cane and couldn't quite bend over enough to pick it up. My son ran over to her and handed it back to her. She thanked him and he quietly said, "You're welcome," and came back to my side and looked up at me.



My heart swelled with pride, and I gave him praise for being a good boy.

I sowed that seed, and for a long time I saw no evidence that it was taking root and growing in my little boy's heart. I am glad I sowed the seed, even though I had not seen any evidence of fruit. I kept tending the garden of my son's heart, and was so grateful to see that the seed has started to take root.

Luke 12:42-43 says, "And the Lord said, 'Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

I pray that this is what my son hears of our Master. I pray when I see His beloved face that He will be well pleased with the stewardship of the precious gift He gave me. I pray for wisdom in dealing with my boy. I pray that he doesn't see his mother stumble on my walk with God so I may show him that the love of God and obedience to Him give sanctification.

Kathleen Vess writes a monthly column for SDA Homeschool Moms.
You can find more encouragement at: www.sdahomeschools.org



Words for the Young at Heart

The Conversion of "Sig" Sim

The occasion was several years ago in a great camp meeting in Texas. Conditions religiously were extremely hard and bad where such meetings were held. I think I never knew them worse.

Men with white locks about their ears were lost, and even their grandchildren followed in forbidden and ruinous paths. The few people of God seemed down and beaten and defeated.

All these things were recounted in the preacher's ears, as he began the meetings, together with an oft-repeated story of one of the citizens, a man known for a radius of hundreds of miles. They told me much about this same "Big" Jim.

They said, "He will come to the mission once this year. He will curse you and the meeting and curse the churches, and then he will wait another year to come again. That is his style. You need not waste any preaching on him."

They described him so well that I could not mistake him. One night I stood up to preach, and in came "Big" Jim. I shall never forget the emotions that then possessed me. Here was the

chief of sinners, so the people said.

What could be done for him?

That night I preached, and God's Spirit moved on the audience mightily. Men with their white locks and stooped shoulders turned to the Savior like little children. Grandfathers were converted who had walked the wrong way for well nigh threescore years and ten, and their grandchildren also came. The Spirit of the Lord was upon us in a marvelous fashion. Yonder sat "Big" Jim like a granite shaft.



And when the service was concluded a little group of people stayed behind and talked with one another about the service, as men were wont to talk over such an occasion. Ever and anon they would refer to "Big" Jim. They said, "He was here tonight, but he will not come back."

One said, "I believe he will return; I never saw him look as he looked tonight."

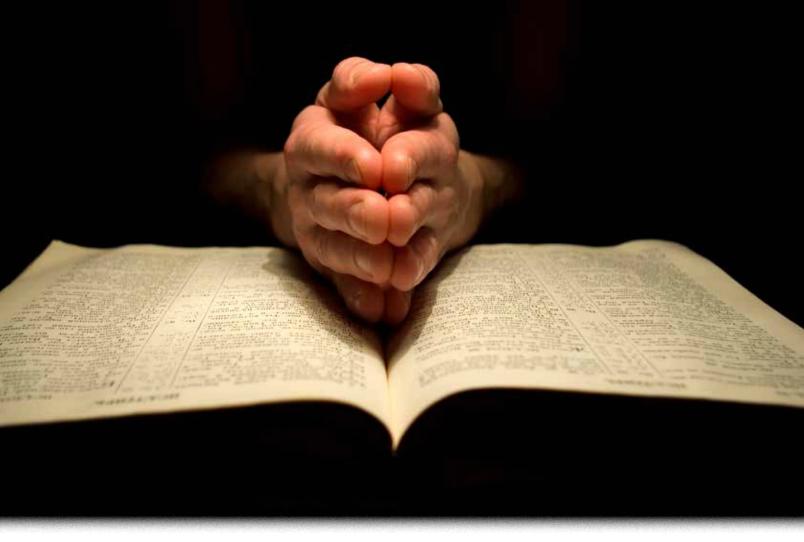
Another said, "No."

Another said, "Yes."

After I left the tabernacle to find the cottage where I slept, as I went along through the quiet woods I heard someone talking in the darkness of the night. I did not mean to be an eavesdropper. There were two of them talking. They were speaking, Oh! so earnestly! They were talking to God. This is what they were saying, "Almighty God, the people are saying that 'Big' Jim is too much for Thee. Oh, break to pieces our unbelief and let all this country know that God is Master of the situation, that He can save even the chief of sinners here."

They said, "Master, we plead Thy promise to Thy disciples about two who agree about anything they should ask, that Thou wilt hear. We agree that we want 'Big' Jim saved for the glory of God and to stop the mouths of gainsayers once and forever in this place."





I quietly went my way leaving them thus on their knees. They did not know that I had heard them, nor do I know who they were. The next meeting came and again I stood up to preach, and in came "Big" Jim again. Yonder he sat at the back of the tabernacle. I silently prayed, "Father, give me the Word of Life for this brother."

I told the story of the prodigal son, and then I said, "I bring you a gospel to which I have anchored my very soul. I am willing to die by it; I am going to meet God with it when I stand before Him in the judgment. I came one day and surrendered to that Savior whom God the Father sent. Is there a man who will surrender to Him now?"

"Big" Jim started toward the front, and in a moment five hundred men behind all rose to their feet. Was I dreaming? Was it too good to be true? They were on their feet, looking, listening, sobbing. Down that long aisle came "Big" Jim, and when he reached me he caught my hand and said, "I put you on your sacred honor; will Jesus save me if I give up to Him?"

I said, "On my sacred honor, I answer that He will."

Then he looked at me again while the men stood all about us and said, "But you must remember that I am the worst man out of hell."

I answered, "My Savior died for the worst man out of hell, and He is able to save him now."

Once more he looked at me and said, "When would He save me if I were to surrender myself to Him right now?"

I said, "On the authority of Jesus Christ on which I have rested my soul for time and eternity,

I declare that He will save you right now, and you yourself may judge whether I am right if you will fully surrender to Him now."

Then "Big" Jim turned his great bronzed face, pitiful in its anguish, up toward the heavens and gasped this prayer, "Lord Jesus, the worst man in all the world gives up to You now."

I cannot tell you all the rest. I don't know that the angels could tell it all. But God unloosed his tongue and "Big" Jim witnessed for Jesus then and there as I never heard Him witnessed for before or since. Old grizzled men came and kissed "Big" Jim, and the little children kissed him—for the chief of sinners was saved.

Then the word went abroad as fast as the winds could carry it that God was in the midst of the people, forgiving sin.

Friend, one such victory as that for Christianity sounds out the gospel both far and near as can nothing else in all the world. We will stand by the simple, old-fashioned, supreme vocation of the Christian, which is to win men to God. That is the biggest thing in the world. And when that is done, light will spread and darkness will flee, and righteousness will follow. That was the way the gospel of old was made victorious. Men were converted to God, and others soon heard the gladsome news and themselves were led to ask the Way of Life.

"Che goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."
—Romans 2:4



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