

Fundamentals of Christianity

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teach that eternal life pertains to man as a part of his nature. But that man has been so constituted by God that he is unable of receiving eternal life. Thus under certain conditions this eternal life is imparted by God. "Eternal life is the gift of God," Rom. 6:23. The condition upon which the reception of this gift is held in the Lord Jesus Christ. "For so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life." Without this life we perish. For "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," Rom. 5:12. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," Rom. 3:23. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation. Heb. 2:3. We all lose the certainty of death. We hope for life beyond the grave. How can we realize that hope? Can a man by his own devices or inventions secure for himself that life which will not perish? There was a time when men so thought. Chemists toiled, studied, and experimented in a vain endeavor to concoct an "Elixir of Life." Travellers explored the remotest parts of the earth in hope of discovering the "Fountain of Youth." No longer do men entertain such delusive hopes. We are saved from eternal death by the gift of eternal life from God.

The assurance of eternal life may satisfy man's natural desire to secure life beyond the grave. Yet, the gift of eternal life may or may not be a desirable thing. It depends upon

the conditions and extent of that life. As said before, the scriptures do not tell us regarding the conditions and content of future life. Nevertheless, enough is said to enable us to know that we, in this life, largely determine the conditions and content of the life to come. We must "Work out our own salvation." The kind of a life we live now determines what shall be hereafter. A certain university offers a course of study designated as "The Appreciation of Music." The course is intended to fit those who take it to appreciate, more than before, the beauty of music, to enjoy it more. The Christian life is a course in the appreciation of heavenly things. It fits us to enjoy the good things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

Forgiveness.

We would be afraid to meet the Lord if we had to go into the heavenly home without forgiveness. Beyond the grave with "a certain fearful expectation of judgment," presumably we would not be very happy. We would be continually oppressed with the sense of our own guilt. Indeed in this life it is terrible enough to live from day to day with the burden of a guilty conscience. I know three boys who, some years ago, after having indulged in some mischievous prank, for which they expected to be punished by the father of the next day, decided to get up early the next day and run off to the woods and there spend the day. The next morning they ate an early breakfast, helped themselves to a lunch to take along, walked about five miles to a lovely bit of woods and there spent the day. You can imagine what an enjoyable time these boys had together. The place

was beautiful. Many kinds of birds were there, and eggs in the nests. There were squirrels and rabbits running about. One or two hedgehogs were found. Blackberries were ripe. There were springs of cool, clear water to quench the thirst. Shady places in which to rest. What more could be desired? Yet, these boys did not enjoy themselves in the least. That stupid trick had spoiled it all. At nightfall, tired and sorry, they quietly went back into the house and went to bed without facing father or mother. If they had known they were forgiven, what a great difference it would have made.

I have before me two newspaper clippings. One from the Telegram of a few weeks ago, states that Clifford H. Custer, of Chicago, has publicly confessed that he had forged bonds of an aggregate value of \$500,000 upon which he had borrowed \$100,000 from the Chicago Title and Trust Company. In a prison cell he is reported to have said: "I am nearer happiness than I have been for four years. Yesterday I was a millionaire. Today I am a happy pauper." Apparently no one had suspected this man of dishonesty. The other clipping reports that Bob Linder had surrendered himself to the sheriff of Calhoun county at Pittsburg, Miss. for a murder committed twenty years before.

He, too, though he would be happier in a prison cell. The government maintains a "Conscience Fund" in which is put sums of money received from time to time from persons who thus voluntarily try to make amends for some wrong they have done.

The insistent accusation of a guilty conscience is a terrible thing. The burden of guilt is heavy to bear. The way to get relief from that burden is to confess the wrong we have done and to make restitution. But we cannot always undo the wrong we have done. In so far as we have wronged God and offended him we can confess our sins to Him, as we are commanded to do, but how can we make restitution? How can we be relieved of the burden of guilt so that we will not fear to stand before Him? The whole system of Jewish sacrifice, offered year after year, was but to teach these people and us that we cannot make restitution for sin by gifts, penances, or sacrifices. They foreshadowed the final sacrifice of "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world." Jesus paid it all. God can forgive us our sins and yet be just if we confess our sins before Him and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as an offering on our behalf. "God commandeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Rom. 5:8. "In whom we have our redemption thru His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace," Eph. 1:7. This forgiveness is a part of our salvation. It is accomplished, not by our own efforts, but by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Mastery Over the Power of Sin.

Some may conclude, therefore, that as all we have to do to secure the forgiveness of our sins is to confess before God and accept Jesus Christ as our sin offering, we can do anything we like, commit as much sin as we desire and yet be assured of forgiveness. Not so. Paul says: "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid." Rom. 6:1-2. And in the Hebrew letter we read: "If we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins but a certain fearful expectation of judgment." Chapter 10, verses 26 and 27. In other words the scripture teaches that when we thru faith accept Jesus as Savior and obey Him in baptism we receive the forgiveness of past sin but after that we are held accountable for all wilful sin and will be judged for it. We are to fight and conquer sin. By the grace of God

we become partakers of the divine nature. We become new creatures. The old man is buried in baptism, that as Jesus was raised from the dead, so we also are raised to walk in newness of life. Read Rom. 6:1-14. A man's evil nature will often assert itself over his life in such a way that he is apparently powerless to help himself. Sinful habits are bonds which bind and are hard to break. "His servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness," Rom. 6:16. Jesus has redeemed us from the bondage of sin. "Ye are bought with a price" "Sin shall no longer have dominion over you." But the sinful nature will not be overcome in a day. New converts are new born babes in Christ. The spiritual nature is weak at first and not always able to assert itself. It must be nurtured, protected, fed, and exercised until it is strong. The old nature must be suppressed until the spiritual is able to dominate over it. We must do this ourselves. It requires effort. We must "work out our own salvation" in this way. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. He gives us eternal life and forgiveness for sins. But this fight against our own evil dispositions is something we can do for ourselves. "Fight the good fight of faith." "Quit you like men, be strong." "To be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

God does not leave us helpless in this fight against sin. He recognizes our natures and the power of sin over us. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation make also a way of escape, that

ye may be able to endure it." 1 Cor. 10:13. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation," 2 Pet. 2:9. It is not cowardly to try to escape temptation. It is weakness to submit. We should be inspired by the example of Jesus who "has been tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin." He went about doing good. "Overcome evil with good." The Christians of the Roman church were nearer to salvation than when they first believed because they had been de-

veloping Christian character and overcoming evil. This part of salvation is progressive and depends largely upon our own efforts. Salvation is not complete without mastery over sin. If we continued in sin we could not enjoy or appreciate the beauty of the life to come. The victory over sin may not be complete for some of us, perhaps, in this life. But we shall finally "Be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God." Rom. 8:21.

Home Portraiture

Portraits taken in the home are often more natural and pleasing than when taken in the studio.

Until the 1st of March the people of Heppner can have pictures taken in their own homes at any time.

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Your Income Tax

Honorable Milton A. Miller, Collector of Internal Revenue, Portland, Oregon, under date of January 17, 1919, makes the following statement in regard to the new Income Tax Laws:

"The basic principles of the old laws will probably apply to the provisions of the new, so far as income tax is concerned, and it would be well for each individual, partnership and corporation to prepare their figures, and ascertain the exact amount of their income, so that the actual returns can be made with as little delay as possible."

It will save you time and money to have your Income Tax return correct. If you don't pay a sufficient tax you will later be assessed the amount you should pay together with a fine and penalty. If you pay too much a great amount of trouble and delay is often experienced in obtaining a refund of the tax erroneously paid.

We will prepare your Income Tax statement for you and assist you in determining your proper deductions and exemptions from your gross income.

Besides conducting our Income Tax Accounting department, we make a specialty of selling livestock, both at public auction and private sale. We have sold several of the largest auction sales held in Eastern Oregon this Fall. If you have cattle, horses, sheep or farm machinery for sale, let us know.

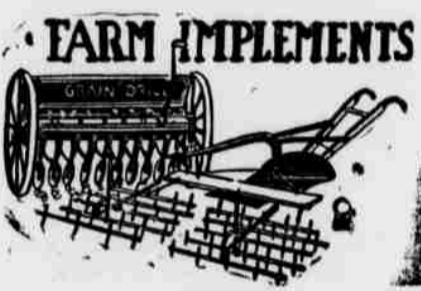
If you want to sell or buy a stock ranch or wheat ranch, or if you want to lease or rent a ranch, it will pay you to consult us.

For information, phone, call or write

Farmers' Exchange of the Inland Empire

HEPPNER, OREGON

F. R. BROWN, Manager



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The time is rapidly approaching when it will be necessary to begin Spring farm work.

ARE YOUR IMPLEMENT POSSESSIONS SUFFICIENT FOR YOUR NEEDS?

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THE machine and repair shops of this Garage are now in charge of Messrs. **RIVERS & ACKLEY**, men who thoroughly understand the business. All accessories, tires and car sales business continued under old management.

ALBERT BOWKER, Proprietor