

MIRACLES OF SAVING GRACE

BY

John Waiter Halliday

AUTHOR OF

“Finding Jesus Fully in Our Atomic Age”

“Daily Triumphant Through Christ in These Trying Times”

“Immortal Life”

1950

SIGNS PUBLISHING COMPANY

WARBURTON, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Miracles Of Saving Grace

FOREWORD

MY AIM in preparing this book has been to inspire followers of Christ through these miracles of saving grace in the winning of the lost. To encourage those who may be unsatisfied with their present Christian experience to give themselves more fully to Christ; and to help those who are not converted to find Christ for themselves as their own personal Savior.

J. W. H.

CONTENTS

Forgiveness Through Christ
Right Now Accepting Christ
Two Died for Him
Just As I Am
Abide With Me
Making the Test
Piloted by Christ
Seeker and an Infidel Accept Christ
Leap for Life
Professor Bushnell's Conversion
Transformed Through Christ
Christ's Everlasting Love
Kept by the Power of God
Heart Hunger Satisfied
Conversion of a Minister
Pardoned Through Christ
Saved Just in Time
Bridging the Gap
Signaling God
A Double Miracle of Saving Grace
The Greatest Miracle of Saving Grace

Forgiveness Through Christ

ONE OF the most important phases of one's personal preparation for Christ's soon coming is to have the assurance of forgiveness of all sins. Many professed Christians do not have this certainty. When this important step has been taken, however, the new peace and power that come into the life make it easier to take every other step required in thoroughly preparing for the return of Jesus.

The question naturally arises, "How shall I become assured of forgiveness?" Take the words of Jesus as your guide: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened." Luke 11:9,10. This admonition means that if one is desirous of being forgiven and seeks earnestly for it, he will surely obtain it.

An encouraging example is that of a young man who later became a celebrated Bible commentator, Dr. Adam Clarke. A preacher once asked young Adam, "Do you think that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven your sins?" He replied, "No, sir. I have no evidence of this." The preacher then urged him to pray for it, and he did so. Although in doing so he seemed to enter into mental stress and strain, nevertheless he persevered. One morning he went out to his usual labor in the fields. He began work, but could not continue. So he fell on his knees and tried to pray, but he seemed to lose his strength and could not pray. He tried again, but only thick darkness seemed to settle down upon him. He fell flat on his face, still trying to pray. He appeared to be separated from God, and it seemed to him that the separation would be eternal.

What he could say or what he could do to find forgiveness, he knew not. It was all a great mystery to him. But in the midst of his fearful perplexity words were whispered into his mind, "Pray to Christ!" So he looked up trustingly toward Him, letting his heart go out for the peace and forgiveness that he longed for so deeply. He received what he desired, and his agony of mind passed away! He then examined his conscience, but found no condemnation. He looked for his distress of mind, but could not find it. He did find, however, that a wonderful change had taken place in him. He was filled with an indescribable happiness. A great light and wonderful peace had sprung up in his soul. It seemed to him that he had entered into a new and glorious world.

Do you think that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven your sins? If your answer is No, you can be certain that you can have the same full assurance-and just as readily-as did Adam Clarke. Will you not then seek for it as perseveringly as he did? How much he was willing to go through for the peace and joy of forgiveness! He knocked till the door of heaven was opened to his longing desire. You can do the very same. Jesus eagerly waits to bestow upon you His heavenly peace that passes all understanding. The promise reads, "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7. So if to any extent you find yourself lacking in a thorough knowledge of sins forgiven (and the deep and abiding peace that such a knowledge brings), would not you also be blessed by following Clarke's course. If you pray to Christ as did this young man, lifting up your heart longingly to Him for the pardon and peace that He died on the cross to bring within your reach, would you not receive both abundantly? And if many difficulties seem to stand in your way, would you not still be happier by persevering till victory is gained?

How precious is the harmony with Heaven thus gained, and how great are the blessings received! How glad you would be that you took the decisive step, linking your soul with that of the Savior by offering up to Him words of prayer like these: "O dear Savior, I do lift up my heart in prayer to Thee for the forgiveness and peace it cost Thee so much on the cross to bring to me. I come perseveringly, as Thou has told me to come. And I claim the answer and believe in Thy forgiveness and peace, in harmony with Thy divine promise. With this decisive step taken, you will have a true experience in the full and free forgiveness for all past sins. And forward in a what peace and joy will be yours in going true Christian life!

Right Now Accepting Christ

A MINISTER was earnestly giving his message one night. He was impressing upon his congregation the fact that the most opportune time to accept Christ is when the Spirit of God moves upon the soul. He pressed this fact home to the hearts of his hearers as he said, "When you have a religious impression, the time to act upon it is right then. When you hear God's call and you know you ought to respond, the time to do so is right then."

Was the preacher right? Indeed he was. How appealing is the God-inspired invitation: "Today, after so long a time; ... today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 4:7. Then to those who hear God's call, the appealing question of the Apostle Paul comes as an urgent warning, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:3.

The convincing words of the minister deeply touched a young man in the congregation. God had spoken to him, and he realized that his golden moment to accept Christ had come. He arose from his seat, stepped out into the aisle, walked down to the front, and said, "It shall be right now that I take Christ as my Savior!" That was all, but he meant every word of it. He had accepted Christ as his Savior, and the great problem of his life was settled.

The next morning the young man went to work as usual in the sawmill where he was employed. Christ was dwelling richly in his heart, and he began singing as an expression of his happiness. Song after song sprang from his lips, and he sang at his work all morning. But just before noon he became caught in the machinery and was fearfully injured. When the men got him out, he said faintly, "Send for the preacher that preached in the church house at the foot of the mountains last night." He was soon found, and he hastened up to the mill. Bending sympathetically over his dying young convert, he took him by the hand and said, "Charley, I have come. What would you like to say?" There was a smile on Charley's face that only Heaven could bestow, and he faintly pressed the minister's hand and said, "Wasn't it a glorious thing that I settled it in time?"

How often the tender invitation of Jesus is whispered into the heart in time to save, and how glorious it is when it is accepted in time! Just as soon as the heavenly invitation is accepted and the soul surrenders to Jesus, a son is born into Christ's heavenly kingdom. This always brings joy to the soul. No wonder Charley sang so freely and so fully!

Have you settled this most important matter of accepting Christ as your own individual Savior? If not, as you have seen the glorious results of so doing, would you like to do so? Jesus Himself longs inexpressibly for you to give yourself to Him. With Him by your side by His Spirit to help you, you would be victorious in living for Him. So will you not do so? if you will, then say as did Charley, "Right now I take Christ as my Savior!"

How glad you will then be! How you will rejoice in being able to say, "Wasn't it a glorious thing that I settled it." How happy Jesus will be over you! And how happy the angels will be as they rejoice over you before God, your heavenly Father!

**"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today For a soul, returning from the wild;
See! The Father meets him out upon the way, Welcoming His weary, wandering child.**

**"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today, For the wanderer now is reconciled;
Yes, a soul is rescued from his sinful way And is born anew, a ransomed child."**

WILLIAM O. CUSHING

Two Died for Him

THE SEA sparkled and the birds sang sweetly one beautiful morning after a fearful storm. On shore a lady and a sailor stood beholding a ship, the wreckage of which showed the strength of the storm. After lamenting any loss of life that may have occurred, the sailor asked, "Do you know the Savior?" The lady then asked him how long he had known the Savior, for all was well with her soul. He replied, "It's nigh on to, five years. ... Never will I forget it, for two died for me."

"Two?" she questioned.

"Yes, ma'am, two. My Savior died for me eighteen hundred years ago on Calvary's cross, and my mate died for me just five years ago, and that brought me to my Savior."

Then he told of the shipwreck when his mate died in his stead. In a terrible storm the vessel was driven on a rock. Signals of distress brought out a lifeboat from the shore. It hardly seemed possible for it to reach them, but it did. The women and children were first taken ashore. Then the sailors knew that some of them must die, for the ship would surely sink before the lifeboat could reach them the fourth time. So they drew lots to know who should go and who should stay.

"My lot was to stay in the sinking ship. What a horror of darkness came over me! 'Doomed to die and be damned,' I muttered to myself, and all the sins of my life came before me. Still I made no outward sign, but, oh, ma'am, between my soul and God it was awful! I had a mate who loved the Lord. Often he had spoken to me of my soul's welfare, and I had laughed and told him I meant to enjoy life. Though he stood by my side, I could not even ask him to pray for me. I wondered why he did not speak to me of the Savior. I understood it afterward. His face, when I once caught a glimpse of it, was calm and peaceful and lighted up with a strange light. I thought bitterly, 'It is well for him to smile; his lot is to go into the lifeboat, to be saved.' Dear old Jim, how could I ever have so mistaken you?"

"Well, ma'am, the lifeboat neared us again. One by one the men whose lot it was to go got in. It was Jim's turn, but instead of going into the lifeboat, he pushed me forward, 'Go you in the lifeboat in my place, Tom,' he said, 'and meet me in heaven, man! You mustn't die and be damned! It is all right for me.' I would not have let him do it, but I was carried forward. The next one, eager to come, pressed me on. Jim knew it would be like that, so he had never told me what he was going to do. A few seconds, and I was in the lifeboat. We had barely cleared the ship when she went down, and Jim, dear old Jim, with her. But, madam, he died for me!"

As the ship went down, Tom said in his heart, "If I get safely to land, Jim shall not have died in vain. Please, God, I will meet him in heaven! Jim's God must be worth knowing, when Jim died for me that I might get another chance of knowing Him."

It did not take long for him to find the Savior, but at first he did not know how to begin. He was continually seeing Jim go down with the sinking ship with the quiet smile of peace on his face, day and night awake and asleep. At the beginning he seemed to think more of Jim than of the Lord. Then he bought a Bible, for Jim had loved it so. But before he began to read it, he offered up a little prayer, telling the Lord how ignorant he was about the way to heaven, and asking Him to show him how to get there. Then he began reading the New Testament, but after reading several chapters he became discouraged, for every line seemed to condemn him. So he said to himself, "It's no use, Tom. There is no chance for you. You have been too bad." But as he closed his Bible, suddenly Jim's last words came to him with power: "Meet me in heaven, man!" So he opened the Bible again and kept on reading it in all his spare moments. Then he told how he found the Savior:

"At last I came to that part about the two thieves, and the Lord saving the one; and I thought, 'Here is a man almost as bad as I am.' So I dropped my Bible and fell down on my knees and said, 'Lord, I am as bad as that thief. Will You save me just like You did him?' My Bible had dropped down open, and as I opened my eyes after praying this, they fell on these words: 'Verily I say unto thee shall thou be with Me in Paradise.' I took them as my answer. So I went down on my knees again and thanked Him. Of course I was very ignorant, but bit by bit I saw the way of salvation-how Jesus had died instead of me and taken away all my sins by His precious blood."

There are many who feel much like the sailor: that they are too wicked to be forgiven. They behold their sins, but not the Savior. Let them behold Jesus as He breathes out His spirit into the hands of

Miracles Of Saving Grace

His Father. "Father," He cries, "into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Luke 23:46. The mighty God, who rules the universe, was still H's Father, even at the very moment of death. Does not that fact ensure Christ's power to save and reward to the uttermost the worst of sinners who turns to Him for salvation like the thief on the cross?

There are those who long to meet their faithful loved ones in heaven at last, but know not the way. But as they persevere in their search to know the way, the dear Savior, with infinite tenderness of compassion, opens up the way before them and encourages them to put their trembling hand in His and let Him lead them all the way to the Paradise above. They may have been deeply sunk in sin, but as they turn to Him like the dying thief and grasp His wonderful promise that they will be with Him in His matchless kingdom, the peace of Heaven enters their hearts, a new and holy life is begun in them, and they go forward with rejoicing in the faithful service of their Lord and Savior.

Just As I Am

JESUS calls to us to come to Him just as we are, no matter what our sins are or how great they may be, or how heavy may be the burden we carry because of them. His great appeal is, "Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28,29. Many take their own way in trying to be saved: Some simply try to be good; others try to live like Christians; and still others try to reach heaven by their good works or great efforts. All these imitations fail. They will not lead us to Christ, nor will they lead us to heaven.

When we at last respond to Christ's tender invitation to come to Him, He lifts from us our heavy burdens and lets us go free. Our sins are taken from us, and our souls' needs are richly supplied, so that we may live happy and victorious Christian lives. For all this we have the promise, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. When we come to Jesus just as we are, we come to Him just as He is. We are finite. He is infinite. He makes all the changes necessary to transform us into true followers of Him.

Let us consider two striking examples of those who have had this experience. The first is that of Charlotte Elliott. She longed to come to Christ, but knew not how. So she went to a saintly man well along in years and asked him the way. He said, "It is very simple. You have but simply to come to Jesus." Then she said, "But I am a very great sinner. Will He take me just as I am?" "Yes," he answered, "He will take you just as you are, and no other way." So she made up her mind to go to Jesus just as she was, and said to him, "If He will take me just as I am, then I will come."

So she went home and tried to come to Jesus in the simplest way she could. Then taking pen and paper and putting her thoughts into poetry, she wrote down her simple yet complete and touching way of coming to Jesus, the first two stanzas of which are the following:

**"Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bids me come to Thee.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**"Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."**

In due time the words were set to most appropriate music by a leading composer, William B. Bradbury, and they have doubtless won a great number of people to Christ.

Then there is the story of a certain transformed drunkard. He had fallen so low that his family had disowned him, and even his wife had cast him off. One night, footsore and penniless, he stumbled into the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. Someone was singing "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." It just

Miracles Of Saving Grace

broke me all up, he said, but he didn't surrender. After the meeting he found his way to the home where his wife lived with her father. He threw himself down in the yard, hoping that in the morning he might catch a glimpse of his little boy, whom he was no longer allowed to visit. As the morning began to dawn, the song was still ringing in his ears. He afterward said, "Instead of creeping up to the window, I just crept up to the feet of Jesus! ... He just put His arms around my neck and loved me! And when the sun rose, I was a new man!"

Many others are deep down in sin like this dear man, who will be saved only by the pitying love of Jesus, so well described in the last stanza of Charlotte Elliott's song:

**"Just as I am, Thy love I own
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Yours, and Yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."**

So if you have not yet found Jesus, and are sinking in sin for the want of His compassionate love, you, too, may come just now, just as you are. Won't you do it? And then your own soul's needs will be fully supplied by Him, and you, too, will be forgiven and cleansed and made happy in Him. And all the way to heaven He will walk close by your side, helping you over the hard places, strengthening you, caring for you, comforting you, till at last you reach the Father's house in heaven on high.

Abide With Me

MANY have been saved by being courageous for God. Many also have been lost by not trusting themselves to the care of God. They have been so afraid that they would be unable to hold on to God in the midst of the trials that might come to them that they have never surrendered to Him. They never accepted Christ as their Savior. Yet there have been unnumbered examples of those who have been faithful to God even unto death or when faced with death. The following incident is an illustration:

It was about eventide on the Irish Sea. All was peaceful as the "Lusitania" ploughed its way through the waves. A quartette of the Royal Welsh Male Chorus were enjoying the quiet scene, when they suddenly saw a crosswise ripple on the waves and heard a muffled explosion. In a few minutes the boat began to list. They understood what that meant: the great vessel had been torpedoed. So they decided to act together and at once. They put on their life belts. They had been brought up on the Welsh coast and were excellent swimmers. So they determined to dive from the deck rail before the ship sank, swim under water as far as they could, and meet beyond the range of the suction they felt sure would follow the sinking of the vessel. One of them said afterward, in relating their experience:

"We were just in time. As we came up within a few yards of one another and looked back, we saw the 'Lusitania' stand upright for a second and then drop terribly and shriekingly into the sea. We swam furiously on and on together. A damaged life raft floated out to us. It was useless, except as something to cling to when we were tired of floating or treading water. All the rescue boats missed us. The sun set over the spot where the Lusitania had sunk. It was suddenly dark and very cold.

"Our fingers, and eventually our bodies, grew numb. We clung to the lift raft with increasing difficulty. Being unable to produce a light or a sound on the sea, we gave up hope of rescue and grudgingly admitted as much to one another. Being Christians, we wanted to worship at a time like that, but none of us felt good enough to pray. But we had always sung-sometimes sacred songs. We agreed to sing one stanza of a hymn and then slip quietly together into the sea. We sang:

**'Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!'**

"As we finished the stanza, a bell sounded... We took heart and sang the remaining stanzas.

Miracles Of Saving Grace

Guided by the music of the hymn, the crew of a destroyer steered directly to us, picked us up, and carried us safely to shore.”

When Jesus was on the way to Gethsemane, He appealed to His disciples to abide in Him, that He might abide in them: “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in Me.” John 15:4. What a wonderful promise He has made to those who will trust in Him: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.” Verse 7. Fervently we may respond and say, “I will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of Thy wings.” Psalm 61:4.

The one who told of the great deliverance on the sea said, “None of us felt good enough to pray.” Yet they did pray as they sang their heartfelt appeal to God. So also may the weakest of the weak take courage, and even those who have never prayed before, because feeling or no feeling, they can cry out to God for deliverance and help and strength and get it.

Those also who see that they have not lived the strong prayer life as they should may strengthen it greatly and have in this way a far richer and sweeter and nobler and more blessed Christian experience. They may say with all earnestness, “I will abide in Thee, dear Lord, I will trust in Thee as never before, and I will pray also as never before!” These are the ones who go through their Christian experience more victorious than ever before, happier than ever before, and with a more glorious hope of their wondrous home in glory awaiting them at the end of their heavenward journey.

Making the Test

STANDING on the outskirts of a large meeting, a discharged soldier, crippled and miserable, was leaning on his crutches. This young man became afterward a great preacher, Dr. B. H. Carroll. He had been baptized and had joined the church when a boy, but since he had not experienced real conversion, he later drifted into skepticism and unbelief. He had read widely of books both for and against Christ, but had found no peace of heart. He was bitter and discouraged. He had sworn that he would never enter another church; but his mother pleaded, as only a mother could plead, that he would attend one more camp meeting, and so he went.

As he stood there on his crutches, rather scornfully enduring the proceedings, the preacher startled him by asking questions that seemed meant for him:

“You that stand aloof from Christianity, and scorn us simple folks, what have you got?” His heart answered in a moment, “Nothing under the whole heaven, absolutely nothing.” As if he had heard this unspoken answer, the preacher continued: “Is there anything else out there worth trying, that has any promise in it?” Again the young soldier said to himself, “Nothing, absolutely nothing. I have been to the jumping-off place on all these roads. They all lead to a bottomless abyss.” “Well, then,” continued the preacher, as though he had heard the answer, Let us admit there’s nothing there. But if there is a God, mustn’t there be a something somewhere? If so, how do you know it is not here? Are you willing to test it? Have you the courage and fairness to try it? Are you willing to try it now, to make a practical, experimental test, you to be the judge of the result?”

These calm and pointed questions hit him with tremendous force, but he did not understand what test the preacher had in mind. The preacher continued: “I base my test on these two scriptures: ‘If any man wills to do His will he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God.’ ‘Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord.’” John 7: 17, American Standard Version; Hosea 6: 3. The young man saw that a saving knowledge of Christ rested upon his willingness to obey the truth he found, and upon his perseverance in the test till he had gained this knowledge. So when the invitation was given by the preacher to all who were thus willing to come forward and take his hand as a token of that decision, he at once went forward. His experience from then on in the meeting is related by Dr. Carroll himself:

“The meeting closed without any change upon my part. The last sermon had been preached, the benediction pronounced, and the congregation was dispersing. Only a few ladies remained, seated near the pulpit and engaged in singing. Feeling that the experiment was ended and the solution not found, I remained to hear them sing. As their last song they sang:

Miracles Of Saving Grace

**'O land of rest, for thee I sigh;
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by,
And dwell with Christ at home?'**

MRS E. MILLS.

"This singing made a wonderful impression upon me. Its tones were as soft as the rustling of angels' wings. Suddenly there flashed upon my mind, like a light from heaven, this scripture: 'Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' I did not see Jesus with my eyes, but I seemed to see Him standing before me, looking reproachfully and tenderly and pleadingly, seeming to rebuke me for having gone to all other sources for rest but the right one, and now inviting me to come to Him. In a moment I went, once and for ever, casting myself unreservedly and for all time at Christ's feet, and in a moment the rest came, indescribable and unspeakable, and it has remained from that day until now!"

If you have been living apart from Christ and have found no real rest for your soul, will you not make the same test that the young soldier did? Will you not make up your mind to follow the light that comes to you, and to keep looking for the light till the test is fulfilled?

When you have done this, the Savior will make His divine presence so real to you day by day, His companionship is satisfying, His salvation so lasting, that you longingly will be looking toward your home with Him in glory. And as you do so, you will be refreshed by the words that helped the young soldier come to Christ and enter into His abundant and everlasting rest:

**"O land of rest, for thee I sigh;
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by,
And dwell with Christ at home?"**

MRS E. MILLS.

Piloted by Christ

ALTHOUGH Christ is in heaven at the right hand of God, by the Holy Spirit He is listening to and answering the cry of every soul in need who appeals to Him for help. The words 'Jesus, Savior, pilot me' are answered promptly, because He is trying to awaken just such an appeal in every needy heart. How appropriate such an appeal is at any time is seen in an incident related by Dr. William L. Stidger in his book, "There Are Sermons in Stories." The great transport "Matsonia," in the midst of a terrific storm, in midnight darkness, with the rain pounding and the wind howling, was cutting her way through a submarine zone on the way back from France. Dr. Stidger, on watch at the time, writes:

. "For an hour I heard no sound from the boys below me. I watched their silent forms with a great feeling of respect and affection. The ship lurched through the storm on its zigzag course. Then suddenly I heard of a familiar sound coming from one of the boys below me. It was from big, rawboned 'Montana,' as they called him. The sound was low at first, and because of the storm and the vibration of the ship I could not make it out, although the melody was strangely familiar. Then the boy on the port gun took the melody up, followed by the gunners on the starboard, and I caught the old, familiar words:

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal; Chart and compass come from Thee;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Miracles Of Saving Grace

“Above the creaking and the vibrations of the great ship, above the thunder of the storm, those American boy gunners all unconsciously, in that storm-tossed, tumultuous, turbulent sea, were singing the old hymn that came back to them from their boyhood memories in little churches across this continent. I think I never heard that wonderful hymn when it sounded sweeter or more appropriately sung than it did that night as the second verse wafted up to me where I stood my watch on the aft gun deck of the old transport ‘Matsonia’.

‘As a mother stills her child
Thou can still the ocean wild; Boisterous waves obey Thy will
When Thou says to them, “Be still.” Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.’

How full is the provision made in Christ to meet all our needs, for He Himself has promised: “I am the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.” “And him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:35,37. Are you bound for the heavenly harbor? Is Christ your Pilot? If not, then in these days of stress and strain, of fears unnumbered, will you take Christ on board as your Pilot?

A Seeker and an Infidel Accept Christ

IN A TIMBER CAMP in the midst of the pines, two men were strangely drawn toward each other. One of them was Tim, short and humpbacked, with strong, sinewy arms, who had been in the camp many years and was a general favorite. The other was a newcomer, a tall, broad -shouldered young man, who carried himself proudly erect and had a clean-cut face and steel-blue eyes. To the surprise of all, Tim was attracted to this man, Raymond Lee. In various ways Tim showed his preference for him, and thus won the kindly tolerance of the young fellow. Tim said to him, “Ray, you’ve got a lot to be thankful for. You know books, and you’ve had a chance.” Ray pondered over Tim’s words. A chance? Yes, he had, and had thrown it away.

One day Raymond and Tim were working with a large party of tree fallers. Suddenly a monarch of the forest crashed to the ground. Above the noise a cry of pain and terror was heard. It was from poor, crippled Tim. A branch of the fallen tree had swept him off his feet and pinned him to the ground, Raymond was the first to reach him. Carefully Tim was freed, but found to be fearfully mangled.

“I guess it’s all over with me, boys,” Tim said, trying hard to keep his voice steady. “Ray, stay by me. Oh, be careful.”

They carried him to the camp and a doctor was sent for, but it seemed that he might die before the doctor would come. When he was laid on a rude bunk, he said, “It’s death, boys. Tell me about God. No one ever told me.”

The men were silent, so Tim spoke again, “Ray, tell me. It must be you know, because you’re different from the rest of us.”

All eyes turned toward Raymond. So he bent over Tim and asked, “What is it you want to hear?”

“All ‘bout Him. You see, I don’t know much. Can’t you tell me about Him? Pray for me!”

Raymond was stunned. His face grew white and stern. His father was a minister. He himself had been a theological student and had been influenced by a skeptical classmate who had lent him books that implanted doubt in his mind. Thinking himself superior mentally, he had gone on until he had cast aside the faith of his dead mother and had denied God. So he had forsaken his studies, written defiantly to his father, and at last in desperation hired himself out to work in the timber camp. All this flashed through his mind, and now this dying man was asking him to pray for him. A groan escaped him, and he said, “Tim, I cannot! I-” He paused, unable to say that he did not believe in God, to whom dying Tim had now turned.

Raymond could bear no more. Turning away, he rushed out into the forest and strode here and there, caring not where. Face to face he grappled with his great problem, his right relation to God. His skeptical theories fell away from him. He had nothing now to stand upon. Then came a struggle as for life, till at last he reached a decision that meant everything to him, as with all his strength he won his way back

Miracles Of Saving Grace

to God with the determination: "I will believe in God, and I will obey Him! I will believe in Jesus, and I will trust in Him as my Savior I And I will tell others the story of His saving love and do all I can to win them for, Him!"

The shadows of evening were gathering in the room where dying Tim was lying. Raymond entered, went to his side, and said, "Tim, I have been with God. He has forgiven me, sinner that I am. Now I have come to tell you of His love." Then simply and tenderly he told the story of God's love in sending His beloved Son into the world to die for the lost-to become the Sin Bearer of all who would accept His salvation: "God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." Romans 5: 8; 1 John 1: 7.

As others gathered around, they saw the light that came into Tim's face as he gasped, "I see!" Raymond knelt down, and one after another of the men knelt with him. Never had he prayed such a prayer before, for a soul was on the verge of eternity. And God wondrously answered.

Its all right! Tim murmured. Ray, you tell everybody! "

"Yes, Tim, I will spend my life telling it," he promised.

Tim said feebly, "I thank Him!" and in a few moments all was over. Raymond then faced the men and said: "Boys, I have gone back to the service I pledged to God many years ago. You heard my promise to Tim. Will you forgive the spirit I have shown toward you, and may I tell you something?"

"Yes, go ahead," said the leader of the men. Raymond began at once and told them the story of Jesus and His love. That night he wrote to his father, telling him of his conversion. The next night he told the men still more, and the third night his father arrived to help him. The glorious work went on until seventy souls had accepted Christ as their own personal Savior and were rejoicing in His great salvation.

If you have been ignorant of the saving power of God through Jesus, will you with an open mind behold it as earnestly as did Tim, so that you also can say as fervently as he did, "I see." And will you also open your heart to Jesus as Tim did, so that you can be able to say as decisively as he did, "It's all right"? If you do, rest and peace will come into your life.

A leap for life

ON A SAILING VESSEL many years ago a young lad was fond of running up and down the rigging. One day he managed to climb on to the main-truck, which is the platform built around the mast. But he was not tall enough to reach down to the mast below and thus descend to the deck. As the vessel was swaying from side to side, it was even difficult for the boy to hold on, and he was in danger of falling to the deck and being crushed to death. His father saw his danger and called to him to leap off into the sea. As the boy hesitated, his father called for a gun, and pointing it at him, shouted out that he would shoot him he did not leap the sea. The boy took him at his word; and as the vessel swayed to one side he leaped into the sea and was rescued by the sailors.

A still more striking leap for life was that by a man who had been let down by a rope from the top of a precipice to obtain something desirable below. He managed to reach a ledge of rock and then somehow lost hold of the rope, and it swung away from him. He then had to think fast. He well knew that the rope would not quite reach him in its backward swing toward him, and he knew that perhaps his very life depended on his catching it. If he missed the rope, the prospect was death on the rocks below him. But he instantly decided to run the risk, and waiting only long enough for the rope to reach its nearest point to him, he leaped for it and caught it and was drawn to safety.

So also is it with a great number of people. In their trying circumstances it is difficult for them to exercise saving faith in God. To them it seems like taking a leap in the dark, a leap for life. But God's promise to them is, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deuteronomy 33: 27. If they trust and leap, they will find refuge from their sins, will be saved from eternal death.

God has declared, "The soul that sins, it shall die." Ezekiel 18: 4, 20. So the prospect for the wicked is death, eternal death. When the wicked put their trust in God and believe that He will surely save them, He does so. He makes it a fact. It is not merely a leap for life, but a leap for everlasting life; for Jesus has declared, "He that believes on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3: 36. And He says also in the same verse, "He that believes not the Son shall not see life."

Miracles Of Saving Grace

Many a trembling soul, discouraged over his past life of sin that never truly satisfied him, realizes the call of his heavenly Father to come home to Him. Like the prodigal son, coming to himself at long last, he gathers all his remaining strength and leaps, as it were, into the everlasting arms waiting to save him. He trusts; he casts himself upon God's mercy and is safe. He obeys the divine appeal, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee." Psalm 55:22. Then sweet rest comes to the soul as the burden of sin is rolled away. What a delightful freedom is experienced from all its worrying cares! What lightness of spirit, what refreshing peace, and what uplifting joy come into the life! And the "everlasting arms" of the heavenly Father carry His children on earth till the very last breath of life: "Even to your old age will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you." Isaiah 46:4.

Professor Bushnell's Conversion

MILLIONS today, in our atomic age that is so full of deadly peril, know not how to be saved. Millions more know not whether it is even possible to be saved, or even whether there is a supreme God or Savior. Yet there is a simple way by which they can know and be saved. How? They can start right where they are, with the knowledge they have, and begin seeking salvation, walking in all the light that comes to them. They will then have the assurance that they will find it; for Jesus has said, "Every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds! and to him that knocks it shall be opened." Luke 11: 10.

Professor Horace Bushnell, a famous teacher at Yale University, was very popular, so much so that when a minister went to hold a series of meetings at the school, the young men, instead of giving their hearts to God, were inclined to hide behind Bushnell, because he was not a believer in Christ.

The minister at last went to Professor Bushnell and said, "Professor, if these things that I am preaching are true, wouldn't you like to know it? If Christ be praiseworthy, wouldn't you like to know it? If Christ does change men who trust Him, and forgives them, and puts a superhuman power in their lives, wouldn't you like to know it?" After thoughtful consideration Bushnell replied, "Certainly I would like to know it, if the thing be reliable and praiseworthy.- The minister then said, "You can know it if you will just be candid."

"How?" Bushnell asked.

"Take Christ's own challenge, said the minister. If any man wills to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God." John 7: 17, American Standard Version.

"But," said Bushnell, "I do not know how to start. I do not know that there is any God at all. How could I start?"

The minister replied: "Start like this: 'O God, if there be such a Being, give me light on this matter of religion. If Thou has any interest in my getting light, and if Thou wilt give me light, no matter how it comes, I will follow such light wherever it leads.' Take that clue and you will find God."

Then with firmness and decision Professor Bushnell said, "I will take it!"

Three days later he came back, and from the rostrum of the chapel he said to his students: "My men, I have a wonderful thing to tell you. I laughed to scorn all that this man preached, and all the rest of them, and the churches. I have found out that I was in the darkness and they were in the light. Oh, I have put God to the test!" Then concerning Christ he said, "I am henceforth His disciple and friend for ever!"

Although many do not care whether they will be saved or lost, God cares and appeals to all everywhere on earth: "Look unto Me, and be you saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:22. What a wonderful experience He gives to all who will look to Him for it, for He says: "Come now, and let us reason together, said the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. And Jesus Himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent." - John 17: 3.

Do you have a true knowledge of God and of Christ? If not, will you pray as Bushnell prayed, "O God, if there be such a Being, give me light on this matter of religion. If Thou wilt give me light, no matter how it comes, I will follow such light wherever it leads"? Will you keep this prayer before God till you get the light? It was only a few days till Bushnell was wonderfully converted. It may not take you nearly that long. It is the earnestness that quickens the answer. To be forgiven, to be cleansed in heart, and to be made

Miracles Of Saving Grace

holy in life by faith in Christ, who died on the cross for it all-how wonderful an experience!

Transformed Through Christ

HOW FULLY can a man be transformed by the saving grace of Christ? Let us consider an example and see. In the slums of New York, according to Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, lived a violent criminal who had already served three terms in prison. He was also ignorant and profane. But one cold night as he sat dejected in an alley, a city missionary came along and offered him a tract. True to his violent and profane nature he said with an oath, "If you want to help me, give me your coat! You must see that I am freezing!" The missionary did so, although he was thinly clad. Off came his coat, which he handed over to him. The poor man in his great need had put Christianity to the test and found it true. The love of Christ for him, through one of His humble servants, touched his heart and at last brought to pass in him a great transformation of soul and reformation of life.

That man was Jerry McAuley. He had been deep in iniquity and far from God, but he became a wonderful winner of souls as the leader of one of the greatest of city missions. Then after his life's work was done, as he was lying in his casket, one of New York's great preachers said, as he stood in a great pulpit and looked down upon his cold face, O all men who have worked in our city, I think this man was almost the greatest. I pay tribute to his memory. He has influenced the city profoundly in his mission." Then the poor came to have a last look at their faithful friend, bending over his upturned face and wetting it with tears. They were followed by a great company of men, each having a white rose to place on his casket, a last token that he had won them from a life of sin to a life of holiness. There were so many that the casket became a monument of roses to the memory of the man who had been fully transformed and used in the winning of the lost for Christ.

Have you been transformed through Christ, made new in heart and soul? Has He made you self-sacrificing, meek, and lowly? If not, would you like to have Him do so and enable you also to live a transformed life? How complete are the promises: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15: 3. "But God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5: 8. "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." 1 Peter 3: 18. If you have not been transformed through Christ, call upon Him to save you like Peter, who, sinking beneath the waves, said, "Lord, save me." And "immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him." Matthew 14:30,31. How quickly Jesus saved Peter, and how quickly He will respond to your appeal also if you call upon Him!

Full and free and transforming is the salvation that comes into the soul when such heartfelt words as these ascend into the ever-listening ears of God: "O God, save me, too, as Peter was saved. I come to Thee in the name of Jesus for the transformation of my heart, and mind, and soul, and whole life, as I now give myself to Thee and Thy service." And with this transformation will come His peace and power and satisfaction and gladness, that will grow greater from day to day as you prove faithful, until at last you enter into the everlasting riches of your great reward.

Christ's Everlasting love

CHRIST'S everlasting love may be illustrated by the following incident. It was evening. On an excursion boat off the Atlantic coast, a couple, married only a few hours before, were watching the endless waves of the moonlit ocean. Suddenly there was an explosion, and the boat was soon in flames. Then there followed a second explosion. Both husband and wife were injured, but were taken to different hospitals. When the husband recovered, he went to the other hospital to see about his wife, but she had gone without leaving any address.

He then began a search that continued for twenty years, until an expert in finding lost people took over. Thinking that perhaps she had gone back to her former employment in the garment industry, he began a search in that direction. At last the investigator paused behind one of the machine operators, and in a slow

Miracles Of Saving Grace

and quiet voice uttered a name. Instantly her hands dropped from their work. In a few moments they were back again, but were working nervously, unsteadily. So the same low voice spoke again, "Your husband wants you."

In a voice tense with emotion the woman said, "I am not married! The name you have spoken is not mine!"

"But your husband has searched twenty years for you. He wants you!" the low voice continued.

The hands again stopped their work, and the woman quickly turned her face to the speaker and exclaimed, "Do you think a man would marry me with a face like this?"

Her face revealed a mass of terrible scars, seared into her features by a frightful burn. The investigator was startled, but felt certain he had found the lost wife. But it took days of kind persuasion to get her to admit it and tell her story. The second explosion had injured her, and when she saw the mass of terrible scars, she felt sure her husband would no longer love her, so she left the hospital without a word. But she agreed to have her photograph taken and shown to her husband, and if he still cared for her, she would come to him. When the husband saw the photograph, with great happiness he recognized her at once and urged a prompt meeting. When they met, it was a happy moment. Others present saw the sorrow and loneliness lift from the burned countenance, and saw it shine with a glow of happiness because her husband loved her still!

Likewise the love of God manifested through Christ draws the backslider back to the Father, for we read the divine promise, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. Jesus yearns with compassionate love for the wanderers to come back to Him, walk once more with Him, and at last dwell with Him in His everlasting home, the Holy City, so wondrously fair and surpassingly adorned as to be called "the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Were you taught to believe in and follow Jesus? If so, have you wandered away from Him? If you have strayed from His side, His everlasting love has been following you, trying to draw you back again to Him. He has carried you on His heart and has an abundant pardon for you for the asking: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.

This heartfelt appeal is made to backsliders: "Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backsliding." Jeremiah 3:22. How much God will do for them if they will only ask for it! He mindfully tells them just how to ask, how to make up their minds, and what to say: "Behold, we come unto Thee; for Thou art the Lord our God." So each of them may use God's given way of returning to Him and say, "Behold, I come unto Thee; for Thou art the Lord my God." So if you have back slid, won't you take the Lord's own way and words and come back to Him? His everlasting love will make it easy for you to say and mean these words from your heart, and then from His great heart of love will flow the forgiveness, and cleansing, and peace, and power that will make you glad and rejoice in Him.

By His tender Spirit Jesus draws near to you. Will you not accept Him again as He draws near? What assuring words He has given you: "Him that comes to Me I will In no wise cast out." John 6: 37. Jesus has loved you with His everlasting love, His boundless, compassionate love; and He entreats you, "Come unto Me and ... rest." Say to Him words like these: "Dear Savior, I will come, I do come to Thee to renew my covenant with Thee as Thy dear follower, accepting Thee with all my heart again as my own dear Savior. And I will trust Thee to keep me happy and steadfast in Thy love and service, till at last I am with Thee in Thy glorious kingdom for ever!"

Then every day, the very first thing, a little consecration prayer would be helpful, like the following:

"Take me, O Lord, as wholly Yours. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." "Steps to Christ," page 74. Then throughout the day rest in Jesus by an abiding, peaceful trust. Let your mind dwell upon His everlasting love for you, and upon the perfection and beauty of His character, with your faith fixed upon all He is continually doing to UP hold you.

Never a trial that He is not there, Never a burden that He does not bear, Never a sorrow that He does not share, Moment by moment I'm under His care.

"Moment by moment I'm kept in His love; Moment by moment I've life from above; Looking to Jesus till glory does shine; Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Yours."

Miracles Of Saving Grace

D. W. WHITTLE

Kept by the Power of God

IN THESE DAYS of corrupt habits there is a great need for the saving and keeping power of God. And how great is His power to help and uphold the very weakest!

Let us, therefore, see clearly how much God promises to do for those who trust Him: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Isaiah 41: 10. So God promises to uphold them with His own right hand. And He also adds, "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Verse 13.

God helps us, saves us, and keeps us through His beloved Son, our Redeemer. We read further, "Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and you men of Israel; I will help thee, said the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Verse 14.

When a man gives up to God his defiling habits or customs, the heavenly Father makes him over into a new creature, victorious over them all, in harmony with His sacred promise: "Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth. Thou shall thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shall make the hills as chaff." Verse 15.

Not only does God make those who give themselves wholly to Him utterly victorious over every debasing habit or custom, but He also gives to them glory and joy; for He declares: "Thou shall fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them. And thou shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall glory in the Holy One of Israel." Verse 16.

The following incident, mentioned by Mrs. J. K. Burney in one of her booklets, is a striking illustration of the truth of these great promises of God:

"Oh, lady, it's no use. I'd break it right off, and I shouldn't like to break your pledge.

Listen, I replied. 'Here are some words just for you: "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee."

Where did you get that, lady? Would you mind reading it again?'

"I opened my Bible to Isaiah 41:13. He read and reread the verse, then said: 'You see how my hand trembles? Do you suppose I could write my name if God held my hand?'

"'Oh, yes, I am sure you could.'

"'Do you suppose I'd ever take another glass of liquor if God held my hand?'

'Never, unless you took your hand out of the Lord's. He never lets go of anyone.'

"'I've tried a good many times alone. Now, here goes for God and me.'

"He kept his pledge, frequently saying, 'It's a good grip He gives me; never saw anything like it in my life.'

"Lady do you suppose I'd ever take another glass of liquor if God held my hand?'"

Yes, the Lord is able to keep us at all times from falling into any harmful custom or into any sin whatsoever; for He says also, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear." "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together." Isaiah 59:1; 48:13. And the following incident shows how perfectly He can keep us faithful in His service all day long.

After a meeting held in a seaport town, two sailors were spoken to about salvation. One of them said,

"It ain't no use. If we gave up drinking and swearing tonight, we would be as bad as ever tomorrow."

Taking his watch from his pocket, the leader of the meeting said, "Do you think the maker of this watch could wind it up again?"

"Of course he could," they admitted.

"Well, God is your maker, and don't you think He could wind you up and keep you going?"

"We never thought of that, sir."

Miracles Of Saving Grace

“Come to Him, then, and prove His power. He can put you in working order and keep you going on board ship just as well as on land.---

They did so, and many months later they returned after a voyage. When asked how well God had kept them, they replied: “All right, thank God! We made up our minds that every morning we would kneel down and ask Him to wind us up for the day, and every night we would thank Him for having done it; and He did.”

Is the Lord your keeper? Does He keep you when you are tempted and tried? Are you enjoying His wonderful keeping power? If not, do you wish you were kept by His mighty power all day long and were kept in peace of mind and gladness of heart? God saves and keeps us through Jesus, who is the good Shepherd of the Father’s sheep, and who says, “I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine.” John 10: 14. Do you wish He were your Shepherd, too? How may He be? One simple way is to say from your heart, as you accept Him as your heavenly Shepherd, the words of David:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23.

In this simple way all the blessings of God’s keeping power through Christ may be yours, both in this life and in the life to come in the courts and mansions of eternal glory and joy for ever and for ever.

Heart Hunger Satisfied

ALL OVER the world today hearts are hungering for the inward satisfaction that God alone can give them through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, our Savior. Many are groping their way blindly trying to find it, and all the time God is trying to reach them and bestow His blessing upon them. All the long way from heaven He sent His beloved Son to seek for them, and find them, and bring them home to Him. Jesus said, “Neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me.” John 8: 42.

Great is the Father’s compassionate love for His straying children on earth, for it is declared of Him, “Like as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear Him.” Psalm 103: 13. When He finds them and they receive Him into their hearts, He bestows upon them new hearts, new souls, and heavenly peace and comfort; for He says, “As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you.” Isaiah 66: 13.

God greatly delights in purifying and dwelling in the human heart, as in a beautiful and holy temple. For it was written by the Apostle Paul to the believers at Corinth, “Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16. How closely the eyes of God are searching the world today, to find those who are willing to be made temples in which He can dwell and abide with them, may be realized more fully from the following incident mentioned in the Christian Herald:

In London, as the hours nearing midnight passed slowly by, a poor old woman was seen passing along the streets with a searching look. A year before her only daughter had gone to the great city to enter into service. But she had been led astray and was then living in open sin. The mother learned that her daughter might be seen in a certain part of the city, and she was looking for her. She was almost in despair of finding her, when she saw the form of someone who looked like her own dear girl. She approached eagerly and was about to stretch out her arms and embrace her, when she saw that it was not her daughter; and in her grief she exclaimed, “Ah! It is not she! I was looking for my daughter. But, no, you are not my child!” The poor girl burst into tears as she said, “I have no mother! I wish I had! I wish someone would look for me.

How many there are, like that lonely girl, who in their loneliness and sorrow and lost condition have this longing deep in their hearts. They blindly feel for comfort and find it not! But someone is looking for them. God, the heavenly Father, sees their loneliness and sorrow and longs to comfort them with His saving love and make their hearts His home. And the pitying Savior is moved with compassion as He strives to lead them into the way of holiness and peace.

Miracles Of Saving Grace

Have you strayed far in the paths of sin? Are you without God's pardon and peace? Do you hunger to be found of Him? He is looking for you at this very moment if you long to be found. If He has not found you, will you let Him find you? With inexpressible compassion He beholds you just as you are, and longs to bestow upon you His pardon and peace. Will you ask Him in Jesus' dear name to do so? Many others have done so and found rest. Lift up your heart to Him with words like these: "O God and Father in heaven look down and find and save me right now, and cleanse and receive me as a true child of Yours for Jesus' sake, for I will trust fully in Thy pardoning love and grace for me."

**"I come to Thee, O Father,
Confessing all my sin;
I come and claim Thy promise;
Come in, dear Lord, come in.**

**"Oh, send Thy Holy Spirit
To guide me, I implore;
For Jesus' sake, O make me
Thy child for evermore."
JESSIE F. MOSER**

Then you may go happily forward in the service of God with victory in your soul, with the assurance of His abiding presence, and in fellowship with Jesus.

Conversion of a Minister

AT TIMES "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform" in the saving of the lost. This may be seen from the following incident:

A young minister, in the prime of life, went down to a beach for a swim. Being a good swimmer and in fine form, he enjoyed his swim and made good headway directly away from the beach. At length he stopped for a little rest, and to his surprise he found that he had already gone beyond the distance he had intended to go. So he turned back and struck out for the shore, but discovered that he was in a current that would take him out to, the open sea. He struggled on till utterly exhausted and then gave himself up for lost.

He had ministered to a large congregation. But now, with death staring him in the face, he awoke to the fact that he was not prepared to die, for he found himself without hope of salvation. Terror seized him. What was he to do? The very waves seemed to be roaring into his ears the fearful condemnation of the scripture, "When I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Corinthians 9: 27. He felt that he had been preaching a Christ he had never truly known. So he turned away with horror from all his mere profession and turned his heart longingly toward God. Then with all his remaining strength he made a heartfelt appeal to be saved as he cried out, "Lord, save me or I perish, a vile sinner!" Quickly there came into his mind the all sufficient promises: "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. Whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." 1 John 1:7; John 3:16. So he humbly and gratefully drank in the words of eternal life and murmured with his last breath, "Lord, I believe that precious blood was shed for me." Then peace came to him, and he lost consciousness.

Later the son of the skipper of a fishing smack cried out over the water, "Father! Father! Look ahead! What is that on the water? Surely it's a man!" The father looked and cried out, "Row for very life!" The men put forth all their might. The body was seen to sink and rise again, and to do so the second time, but nearer the boat. "Bend to your oars for one last pull!" cried the skipper. The men did so, and the boat reached the body. Quickly it was lifted into the boat, and all efforts were made to restore life. At last, willing hands carried the restored man ashore, happy in the possession of both physical and spiritual life.

Was the conversion of the minister, who was near death, a true and thorough one? Most certainly, for a week later he was back in the same fishing boat, telling what great things the Lord had done for him. He said earnestly to them, "When you saw me in the water that morning, could I help myself? I did not

Miracles Of Saving Grace

help you to save me. You did all the work, and I got all the good. Now, my friends, do you not see how it is with the Lord? He, the Sinless One, suffered in our stead. He took our place and offers us His place. Do you think, however long I live, I shall ever cease to carry about with me the feelings of love and gratitude for the men who did so much for me? And this is how it is with the Lord. When I know He has saved me at such a cost, I cannot go on just as I did, as though it were all nothing. I want my life to show out my gratitude and love and praise.”

The hearts of some of those listening fishermen were touched at the wondrous story of how the minister had been truly converted, and they also sought for and found the same salvation in Jesus. Many others are likewise in danger of disaster, yet are without the salvation Jesus can so quickly give them. So in the providence of God some of them are led to see their lost condition and to cry out for deliverance, as did the drowning minister, “Lord, save me or I perish!” Then the same assurance comes home to their hearts also: “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” They are led to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to say as did the minister, ‘I believe that precious blood was shed for me.’”

The light of Heaven rests upon those who take this course today. The peace of God satisfies their hearts, and Jesus clothes them with His own righteousness, bestowing upon them His heavenly joy. Thus they are prepared to stand as examples of His saving power even in this strenuous atomic age and be ready for His glorious appearing. And what ringing words of praise spring from the lips of those who have indeed accepted the dear Son of God as their Savior:

**“Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heavenly portals, loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigns for ever and ever;
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!
Christ IS coming over the world
Power and glory unto the Lord belong;
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise Him ever in joyful song!”**

FANNY J. CROSBY

Pardoned Through Christ

SOME who are wandering in the depths of sin tremble on the brink of accepting pardon through the blood of Christ. Yet the Bible declares: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7. Why can God pardon? Because all our sins have been laid upon Christ, who died for them all; for we read, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6. The Apostle Paul declares of Christ, “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:14. And how deeply our Savior felt the burden of obtaining our pardon when He expired on Calvary’s cross! This is illustrated by the following incident:

Alexander H. Stephens, governor of Georgia, lay dying. When it became known that he was near death, leading men of the state gathered about him, urging him to sign important documents. But he waved them all aside and asked his secretary to bring to him an old faded paper out of his desk. When this was done, it was found to be an appeal from a humble woman back in the hills for the pardon of her son, who was then in the state penitentiary. The great men around him urged him to delay signing the plea for pardon until he had attended to their important matters, but he replied, “No, I am going to sign this! The great matters will take care of themselves.” So when he had been propped up on his pillow, he took the fervent, faded entreaty and, dipping his pen in the ink, wrote across it “PARDONED.” Underneath it he scrawled his name, “Alexander H. Stephens, Governor” and dropped back on his pillow dead!

Likewise, the last words of Jesus on the cross made sure or signed, as it were, with His own blood, the pardon of all who would trust in Him for pardon and peace when He cried out, “Father, into Thy hands

Miracles Of Saving Grace

I commend My spirit.” Luke 23: 46. And at this very moment Jesus is the same pardoning Savior who has promised, “If you shall ask anything in My name, I will do it.” John 14: 14.

Have you been pardoned through Christ? Have you been set free from all your sins? Have you been given a new life from above? If not, remember that when He comes, very soon now, it will be too late to be pardoned; for He will come, as we read, “in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:8. And how near Jesus’ coming is today! A multitude of signs proclaim its hastening approach.

Just think: Jesus died for your sins in order to be able to offer you pardon, whether you accept it or not. Shall He have died in vain for you? How great is the peace that comes with His pardon, and how quickly the burden of sin rolls away!

A remarkable promise of pardon is the following, made by God to all the people of Jerusalem through the prophet Isaiah: “Comfort you, comfort you My people, said your God. Speak you comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” Isaiah 40:1,2.

How greatly God longs to have all accept pardon for sin and cleansing from sin, for they go together. Whom God forgives He cleanses, and when He does so, what comfort comes to the soul-deep, abiding, unspeakable comfort! But the wonderful pardon He offered to all the people of Jerusalem had to be accepted by taking God at His word. Each one of them had to say in his heart, “I am pardoned.” Then what comfort came into each heart, and how great was their rejoicing together! And this faith, the faith that accepts the pardon and cleansing God so fully and freely offers, brings the wonderful reality of it all, for He supplies the fact and the comfort of it all.

So if you are without pardon, will you not plead, “O God, pardon me, I pray, for all my sins. Let not Jesus have died in vain for me! Speak pardon and peace to my soul, for I accept it all in His dear name and will live by faith the life of a pardoned soul.”

Then how satisfying may be your life as a pardoned soul-with the peace of Heaven in your heart, with the light of Heaven in your countenance, and with the joy of Heaven within you. And how well prepared you will then be to go forward from faith to faith, walking in all the light of truth that shines upon your pathway, prepared to stand when Christ appears in all His triumphant glory.

Saved Just in Time

MANY have been saved just in time, some of them only at the last breath of life. The following incident illustrates one such case. A Christian worker had been out distributing literature and was nearing home when he met two young miners. Selecting two of his remaining booklets, he handed one to each. They thanked him, and one of them stopped to read the title of his: “Just in Time.” He was a fine, strong, handsome young man of about twenty-five. Looking into his frank, open countenance, the worker said with deep earnestness, “Yes, my friend, and God grant that you may be just in time for heaven! “ And going home, he prayed, “Lord, save him!”

Two days later he had retired for the night when a loud knocking made him throw up the window and ask, “Who is there?”

“Sir, are you the gentleman who gave a young man a booklet on a recent afternoon called ‘Just in Time?’”

“Yes, I am,” he said.

“Please come at once,” the messenger called out.

Hastily dressing, he went out and was guided by the messenger, who told him that his mate had gone down the shaft that afternoon as usual, but had jumped out of the bucket before it reached the bottom and was caught and crushed, and that he was in terrible agony, unable to speak, just gasping for breath, and that life seemed to be fast ebbing away.

By the time the young man’s story was finished, they were at his home. There lay the victim, completely helpless. He tried to speak, but it was useless.

“Shall I read with you and pray for you?” the Christian worker asked him. He made a low hissing sound, the nearest approach to Yes he could make. The worker then said:

Miracles Of Saving Grace

'I read to him, 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' I spoke to him of the love of God in desiring his salvation, of the efficacy of the blood of Christ to save him. I told him he was lost and ruined by nature, but that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost; that Jesus had been seeking him, wanting him, and having done the work by which sin could be put away out of God's sight, He could now give the knowledge of the forgiveness of all his sins through His precious blood.

'I read to him the story of the father and the prodigal (Luke 15), and also the brief prayers of the Pharisee and the publican in chapter eighteen, and repeated to him the verse 'Him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out.' John 6: 37.

"A change took place in the dying man. The expression on his face was different. He no longer looked despairing. A glorious hope lighted it up. He made a sign for a drink, and his wife held a glass of water to his lips. He drank just a little; and then, to the amazement of all present, he who had not been able to utter a sound beyond the low hissing said in a clear voice, with his eyes uplifted, as though he beheld the One to whom he was speaking, 'Just in time! God be merciful to me a sinner, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.'

"Scarcely had he uttered the last word when his head fell back on the pillow, a shivering little sigh escaped him, and he passed to his rest in Christ."

So even in life's last moments one can truly and fully give himself to Christ. What wonderful redemption! Have you taken the stand that young man took? Have you found refuge in Christ from all your sins? If not, let the same glorious hope lighten up your countenance and make glad your heart as you also declare that you now accept the mercy of God and His salvation, as you also say with all your soul, as did that young man, "God be merciful to me a sinner, for Jesus Christ's sake."

If you do this, what a glorious resurrection morn will await you! With rapture you will meet your Savior and sing His praise throughout the endless ages of His matchless kingdom of eternal glory.

Bridging the Gap

MANY may wonder how it is that Christ can save us from sin, transform our lives, and at last give us life everlasting in the mansions of glory. He can do so because He is both God and man. By taking the form of man and paying the price of our sins, He became able to set free from their transgressions all who would accept Him as their Savior.

Because He is the Son of God, He holds fast to H's Father's hand. Because He is at the same time the Son of man, He takes us by the hand and brings us to God.

He enables us to get right with God. He bridges the gap made by sin between heaven and earth, so He is able to lift us out of the deepest depths of sin and save us to the uttermost. David testifies: "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." Psalm 40:2,3.

Even Job said at one time, as he lay sorely afflicted in ashes, "How should man be just with God?" "Neither is there any days man betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both." Job 9:2,33. But job recovered enough to say afterward, "I know that my Redeemer lives." Job 19:25. Yes, Christ is the great days man who mediates between God and man. He has bridged the gap by His own body on the cross. All may trust in Him as the bridge of safety between sin and salvation.

This is well illustrated by the following incident: On one of the back streets of Paris a house was in flames. The top stories overhung the lower, so the topmost story was near to that of the next house, which was built in the same way. On the top floor of the burning house a father was sleeping with his four boys. Awakened by smoke and flames, he sprang out of bed, rushed to the window, and leaped across to the opposite window of the next house. Then he turned, planted his feet firmly on the window sill, and let the upper part of his body fall to ward his own window until he was able to grasp the window sill firmly. Then he cried out to his oldest boy, who was intently watching him, "Now, my son, make haste! Crawl over my body!" He did, and the second and third boys followed him. But it took considerable persuasion to get the youngest boy, only a little fellow, to do the same. As he was making his way across, the father cried out, "Quick! Quick! Quick! I cannot hold on much longer!" Then when he realized that his little boy also

Miracles Of Saving Grace

was safe, he was unable to hold on any longer, and he fell to the ground and was killed.

Love for his children led that dear father to bridge the gap between life and death with his own body. Likewise, Jesus has bridged the gap between sin and salvation with His own body at the cost of His life. In that episode the boys also had to risk their lives in crossing over to safety on the body of their father. So also at times a supreme effort is required on the part of some to depend wholly on Christ for salvation, but those who do, succeed. They become true children of God and are safe.

Likewise, the heavenly Father gave His all in Jesus, through whom God had created all things; for we read, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. God sacrificed Himself in Christ, as it were, for He was Heaven's appointed heir. The Creator of all the worlds in God's vast universe. Thus we read: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds." Hebrews 1:1,2.

Christ willingly sacrificed Himself. We read of Him that He has the love of a father: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. How appropriately the heavenly Father makes His anxious appeal to His wandering children on earth: "Hasten, My son! Hasten, My daughter! Be quick to accept Jesus while you may! Oh, be quick! Be quick!"

How it helps us to appreciate Christ's sacrifice to realize that although He was God's only appointed heir in the beginning, yet in order to save us He shares with us His heir ship. We read: "The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:16,17.

Many a straying child of God and many a deep-dyed. sinner has heard God's appealing call and has hastened to respond. The most important step is the decision to serve God, and this is made in a moment. There may be a long time spent in deliberation, but the decision to surrender to God takes but a moment. How wonderful it is that we may choose to serve God in a moment of time, and that God accepts us just as quickly when we do!

Some are very earnest in giving themselves to God. They cry out like David after his fearful fall: "Have mercy upon me, O God. Blot out my transgressions. Cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:1-10. And God answers fully and at once! Then refreshing rest is theirs as they yield themselves to God.

**"Father, I yield to Thee my all; My wanderings are over.
Earth's fleeting pleasures cease to call; They shall deceive no more.
My doubts and tears lie all behind, Eternal bliss before;
Lost in Thy love and wholly Yours, I'll rest for evermore."
D. A. R. AUFRANC**

Signaling God

MANY will be saved because they cry out to God for the help they need and for His salvation. They may be uncultivated in manner, unlearned in mind, and uncultured in speech; but if they cry out to God with all the earnestness they have, with whatever words they can, they can be fully assured that God will abundantly answer. The prophet appeals to them, "Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto Him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously." If they do so, the Lord promises: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for Mine anger is turned away." Hosea 14:2,4. This is illustrated by the following incident:

The commander of a war vessel in the British Navy loved to order a sail drill in rough weather. Imagine the scene of the gripping story-rough weather off the coast of Cyprus.

"Clear the decks for action!" rang out his command. "Stand by! Bear out on the yardarm!"

But as his order was being executed, something happened to the captain of the fore tops out on the yardarm. He lost his grip and fell with a sickening thud to the deck-dead.

Miracles Of Saving Grace

Nevertheless the same drill was ordered on the following day. But the new captain of the fore tops also bungled and likewise fell to the deck dead. Both men were buried that afternoon. On the next day the drill was again ordered. The new captain of the fore tops was Billy Hicks, one of the best seamen in the British Navy. He was a jovial fellow, who in the past had been given to drink. But as he had been sober for a long time, he received the promotion. Yet the superstitious sailors thought, "Two men out-the third had to go." But he didn't. The new captain did his work with skill and came down with laughter. But there was a great secret concerning his escape and victory, for some days later an officer from another vessel came on board and asked if there was a man named Hicks in the crew. When told that there was, he said to the commander, "We were thirty miles out at sea the other night, when I saw a light flashed on the dark clouds. I told our signal man to take down the code. This is what he gave me:

"God, this is Billy Hicks. I am not afraid of no man nor devil. I ain't afraid of no Davy Jones's locker, neither. I don't ask for no favors, but just one. This is it: When I strike the fore tops tomorrow, let me do it with what is clean; and, God, dear God, from this 'ere day give me the feeling I used to have long ago when I knelt at my mother's knee and said, "Our Father." Good night, dear God!"

Billy Hicks' way of praying to God may seem coarse, but it was the most direct and certain that he knew. And what a wonderful success it was, for he was not only saved from death in his difficult task, but also saved from wicked living from that day forward.

Over and over again men have prayed to God for light and help in an honest effort to be enlightened and saved. God always answers an honest doubter who pleads for light and salvation. Some do not know how to pray, but they need not be troubled over that. There is no set form of prayer. All that is necessary is to ask for the help you need, just as you would ask it from a friend, or as a child would ask it from a father or mother. It is really a simple matter, and the more simple the prayer, the better. Billy Hicks' way of praying was quite an original one, but it exactly suited his experience and need. That is all that is necessary in the most effectual prayers.

Have you prayed to God for the help you need in order to serve Him aright? How great is the danger of delay in these closing days of the world! How fast time is now passing! God's salvation is the greatest blessing obtainable in this life, and it is worthy of the utmost effort to obtain it. With God's forgiveness and power to live a holy life, you can see and accept all new truth and take all steps necessary to reach at last the heavenly harbor, where all storms will be for ever past.

So if you have not made prayer a daily custom, will you not make a start? Will you not try to let God give you success as you go forward in His service? If you do, then rest assured that your experience will be a really happy one. Heaven is full of joy, and God delights in making even the humblest of His children on earth happy in heart. And then you can look forward to a whole eternity of happiness at last in the heavenly mansions prepared for you to enjoy as long as the ages of eternity roll.

A Double Miracle of Saying Grace

AT TIMES a double miracle of saving grace is performed by the healing of both body and soul. The healing of the physical malady is first received, and this leads to the healing of the soul. This is how many were won for Christ in the early days of the gospel. The following incident illustrates an instance of double healing. It occurred in the lifetime of S. M. Rugg, a former wealthy mine owner, who had lost his fortune and gone to Alaska to seek another.

On the way to the gold-field his eyesight began to fail him. Coming to a deserted cabin, he stopped to rest for a few days and to give his eyes a chance to recover. But to his surprise they gradually got worse, and he soon found himself blind. He vividly tells of his utterly hopeless condition:

"A panorama of my past life went before me. I was compelled to think, and I also discovered that I was cornered. There seemed to me to be no way out. I did not believe I would ever see again. I felt that if I could only die and never be found, it would be a relief. Twice in my life before I had been given up to die, but this was worse. I wanted to die and could not."

In his loneliness and lost condition he began to feel his need of God and of a Savior. He remembered his mother's prayers, how she used to pray back in the barn where no one could see her. How he wished that he could believe as she did! He then began to think about praying for himself. That seemed

Miracles Of Saving Grace

to be all that was left for him to do, except to starve and die. So he begged him to pray, asking God to send someone to deliver him. He prayed all that day and all night until he went to sleep. He felt better, too, while he was praying. He continued to pray for three days and nights constantly, except when he would sleep a little. But there was no answer.

Then his eyes were turned upon himself. He knew he was a sinner, and he tried to think of something else but could not. Involuntarily he would begin again to pray. His past life passed before him, his years of unbelief and doubt and sin. He wondered whether that was why God did not answer him. And at last he felt that all hope was gone.

“Finally,” he said, “I began to repent of my past life. I saw that I had made an awful mistake. My feelings overcame me for a time.... I said to myself, ‘I will not give up! I will pray again!’ I determined to ask God to answer, so that I might know that He heard me. If He would do so, I would believe on Him the rest of my life.”

Then came the wonderful turning point in his experience, as told by himself, a miraculous answer to his prayer:

“My sight came to me in the twinkling of an eye! I could see as well as ever. It was sudden-so sudden that it surprised me. I was entirely overcome, and for a time I forgot everything! ‘Oh,’ I exclaimed, ‘God has heard and answered my prayer! This is the most wonderful thing I have ever heard of! God must be here!’

“It seemed that I could feel His very presence. Yes, yes, God was surely there, for He had given me my sight! There is no mistake about it. I was sure that I was blind, but now I can see. Oh, this is wonderful! If I had only known about this wonderful God, I would have served Him all the days of my life!”

Then, as usual when God in ‘a most outspoken way answers prayer, he could hardly contain himself for joy. So he says:

“I began to get happy. I shouted as loud as I could, ‘Glory to God!’ I danced around that old cabin and praised God. I got the door open, got out, and on top of the hard snow. The sun was shining. The whole woods seemed to be alive, and everything seemed to be praising God. My spiritual eyes had been opened. I was looking upon a new world. While nature seemed to dance, glisten, and sparkle, the blessings in my own soul were more wonderful. I was filled with the glory of God. Such peace, such ecstasy. and such a manifestation of God’s presence are simply beyond language to describe. The impression made upon my mind is indelible. My whole life was changed in a moment! Old things had passed away; all things had become new.

Mr. Rugg was greatly used by God as he gave the story of his experience to thousands, his burning desire being to lead others to enter into the same blessed experience of being born again into the kingdom of Christ. He continues: “I want the whole world to know that God will meet a needy man, that God will convince him of sin, that God will fill his soul and change him in the twinkling of an eye, that God’s Word is true, that there is a supernatural birth. To get into this world, we must be born into it. To get into the other and better world, we must be ‘born again.’

How determined God makes the hearts of those who are seeking God’s blessing and salvation, leading them to say when they are tempted to give up, “I will not give up! I will pray again!” It was this that turned the tide in Mr. Rugg’s experience and brought to him his wonderful blessing of healing and made him a new man in Christ. So to every soul longing for such blessings, Rugg appeals:

“Oh, that the world might taste and see the riches of His grace! The riches of earth, such as gold, silver, and precious stones, are but for a time—a little while—then they fade away. But the riches of heaven that God pours into the soul will last for ever. The more of these heavenly riches you compass here, the richer you will be over yonder. Friend, do not wait until you are old. Accept this free gift today. ‘Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’ Hebrews 3:7, 8. I was sixty-four years old when God met me in that lonely cabin. I had but one chance in ten thousand. How narrow was my escape! How fearful to contemplate! Hear the plea of one who knows. Do not delay!”

The Greatest Miracles of Saving Grace

Miracles Of Saving Grace

THE GREATEST MIRACLES of saving grace in this world will take place at the second coming of Christ. At that time the righteous dead will be raised and, together with the living saints, be saved out of this world and taken up to heaven. They will, therefore, be saved from any further struggles with sin and circumstances. For this we have these promises from the Scriptures: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." "Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." John 14: 3; Hebrews 9: 28; 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18.

It is not the purpose of this chapter to dwell on the second coming of Christ, but upon the greatness of the saving miracle then performed for all the redeemed. It is the answer to the great question of Peter: "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?" Matthew 19: 27. This question sooner or later arises in the hearts and minds of all of Christ's followers. The disciples were risking their lives in Christ's service, serving Him at any cost, come what would. Even doubting Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." John 11: 16. Those who live such lives are encouraged by the certainty that it is not all in vain-that there will be a rich reward for all the trials endured for Christ's sake. What a wonderful reply Jesus gave in answering Peter's question: "Verily I say unto you, that you which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Matthew 19: 28, 29.

For one thing, at Christ's coming, all the redeemed will be saved by grace from the daily struggle with sin. A pen picture is given us of this holy and happy state by Uriah Smith, one of the early pioneers of the second advent movement:

"The goodly land! I can hardly forbear, before I close, casting a glance forward to that heavenly inheritance which is the objective point of all our struggles' our toils, and our desires. I see there a land which stands in a wonderful contrast to this. As the hymn says, "Oh! how unlike the present world, Will be the one to come!"

"I see fields smiling in living green, trees majestic in their wealth of verdure, flowers dazzling with their rainbow hues, and on neither field nor tree nor flower do I see the touch of frost or the pale hand of decay. I see no footprints of the curse, no scars of sin. I see no pestilence walking in darkness, nor destruction wasting at noonday. I see no forms distorted with pain, nor brows furrowed with anxiety and care. I see no mournful shafts telling where weary forms and sad and broken hearts have gone down into dust and darkness. I see no painful messages passing over that land, as two days ago we received one here, telling that a friend, a brother, a fellow laborer, had fallen beneath the cruel stroke of a relentless foe. I see no darkened room where the tide of a precious life is ebbing slowly away. I see no bosoms heaving with anguish, no badges of mourning, no funeral trains, no yawning, insatiate grave." Quoted in "The Coming Crisis," by F. M. Wilcox, page 95.

Having considered some of the negative aspects of saving grace to be enjoyed by the great body of the redeemed after Christ's coming, let us see also some of the positive and more glorious miracles of saving grace that will be theirs: "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a reward. He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing." Isaiah 35:4-6.

"But on the other hand, I see a glorious company who bear bright palms of victory over death and the grave. I see, as one of our hymns says, that

'The glory of God, like a molten sea, Bathes the immortal company.'

"I see every eye sparkling with the fullness of the joy that reigns within. I see on every cheek the bloom of eternal youth and everlasting health. I see every limb lithe and strong. I see the lame man leaping as a hart. I see the blind gazing with rapture on the celestial glory. I see the deaf, listening enchanted to the heavenly melody. I see the dumb joining with loud voice in the anthems of praise. I see the mother clasping

Miracles Of Saving Grace

to her bosom the children she had lost awhile in the land of the enemy, but now recovered for ever. I see long-parted friends meet in eternal reunion. I see a river so pure and clear, so charged with every element of refreshment and life that it is called 'the river of life.' I see a tree overarching all, so healing in its leaves, so vivifying in its fruits, that it is called 'the tree of life.'" - Ibid.

There will be no pain in the atmosphere of heaven, to which the redeemed are taken at Christ's coming, for we read: "The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Isaiah 33:24; Revelation 21:4. We read also regarding the rich reward of Christ's followers: "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16.

"In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home."-Ellen G. White, "The Great Controversy," page 675.

Then as the years of eternity roll, all the treasures of knowledge and understanding in the universe will be open to the study of Christ's redeemed ones.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar-worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation-suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity." - Id., page 677.

Beholding, therefore, the multitude of miracles of saving grace that will be poured out at the coming of Christ upon all the saved, how the heart and mind are overwhelmed at the unspeakable reward for having accepted Christ under all circumstances, however trying. So today-before the great day of the Lord, when it will be too late-how deeply into the minds and hearts of those who may be still not yielded comes the plaintive appeal of the dear Savior Himself with His own touching words of most tender entreaty: "Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out." "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Matthew 11: 28. John 6: 37; Revelation 3: 20. Then, as the hearts of the unconverted are touched and softened and subdued by the Savior's own heartfelt appeal to them, they are constrained to respond and say to Him words like these: "Dear Savior, I do come to Thee! I open wide my heart's door to Thee! Come in and abide with me, for I give myself unreservedly to Thee for ever!" And those who do thus accept and follow Him rejoice in the miracles of grace that are daily theirs and, with all others who are truly following Him, look forward with joy beyond this world's sunset to His matchless kingdom throughout the countless ages of eternity.

**"Beyond the sunset, 0 blissful morning,
When with our Savior heaven is begun,
Earth's tolling ended, 0 glorious dawning;
Beyond the sunset, when day is done.**

**"Beyond the sunset no clouds will gather,
No storms will threaten, no fears annoy;
0 day of gladness, 0 day unending,
Beyond the sunset, eternal joy!**

**"Beyond the sunset, 0 glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones who've gone before;
In that fair homeland we'll know no parting,**

Miracles Of Saving Grace

Beyond the sunset for evermore!”

VIRGIL P. BROCK