

imminent danger of falling into eternal death, of dying in an unsaved condition, occasion concern and grief. All too few realize that the rescue of a soul, the bringing of one into an experience of salvation from sin through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is an event worthy of fervent exclamations of rejoicing.

Nothing is so important to a man as his life. Even more important should seem the salvation of his soul. For *"it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). Therefore we are to *"receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save (our) souls"* (James 1:21). And *"the Word is nigh thee . . . : That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"* (Romans 10:9).

SWEETNESS AND NIGHT

Henry Thoreau was on his death bed, and a Christian lady of his acquaintance visited him and asked if he had made his peace with God. Thoreau is reported to have replied, "I did not know that we had ever quarreled." The purpose of the magazine that ran this anecdote, in addition to adding interest to its pages, was probably to encourage the type

of sickly sweet, popular religion that makes so many Americans feel contented with themselves.

But what a travesty on Christianity, and what a tragedy for Thoreau and any others who are taken in! To live all of one's life and not to know that one has quarreled with God! The American people have broken God's divorce laws; they have broken his Sabbath laws; and there is not one of us who has loved the Lord our God with all our strength, all our soul, and all our mind. Christ did not come into the world to condemn the world; the world was condemned already. All people have sinned, and the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Before anyone is deceived by sweetness and passes out into a night of weeping and gnashing of teeth, let him learn that he has indeed quarreled with God; let him also learn the good news that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

G. H. C.



Can Good Works Save?

Many people do not understand why God will not accept human character as a basis for salvation. The natural mind, accustomed to weighing all matters by purely human standards, will not receive it that God must reject human goodness because it comes from a heart that is fallen and sinful. A humorous anecdote about little Willie is a good example of this. He was being admired because he had crawled out on the ice to rescue a playmate who had fallen through. "Tell us, my boy, how you were brave enough to risk your life to save your friend," said an old lady. "I had to," was the breathless answer. "He had my skates on." If we are honest with ourselves we shall realize that very often our acts of goodness, down underneath, have a selfish motive.

Works are good works if they are

done because of Christian faith, according to God's commandments, and for God's glory. By this test the unsaved man is seen to fall hopelessly short. As Isaiah said, all man's righteousness is but filthy rags in God's sight. So then we need every one of us the righteousness of Christ the Son of God for our acceptance with God. Paul put it like this: *"The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . . For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith"* (Romans 1:16, 17). We are to accept Christ by faith in Him and in His saving work; then we are accounted righteous in God's sight. God grant us to receive and believe His truth and His Son.