RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Gems Gleaned From the Teachings of All Denominations.

Self sacrifice is the door to the true spiritual life.—Rev. C. E. Harding, Episcopalian, Baltimore.

Robbing God.

A man cannot rob God of that which rightly belongs to him and expect lasting blessings upon either himself or his children.—Rev. L. M. Zimmerman, Lutheran, Baltimore.

Developers of Men.

A man's business, education, society and experiences develop what is in his nature and reveal the tendency of his character.—Rev. H. O. Rowlands, Baptist, Davenport, Ia.

Homemakers.

Money can make a house, but it requires loving hearts and sympathetic, helpful souls to make a home—a model home.—Rev. Dr. John Thompson, Methodist, Wheaton, Ill.

Life.

Life is joy, but not pleasure. Life is a struggle, and the more pain we encounter the more of humanity and morality there will be.—Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, Hebrew, Chicago.

How Religion Helps.

Religion helps man to overcome the friction of life and to conserve his resources. It produces a conservation of all the energies of life.—Rev. W. H. Carmardine, Methodist Episcopal, Chicago.

"The Value of Three Years."

Three years gave us Calvary. Three years may give any man or woman living tonight a character of Christ, a trained life of service for his fellow men.—Rev. Dr. John Timothy Stone, Presbyterian, Chicago.

Control the Tongue.

Do not go around with "a serpent's tongue." Do not be a scold. Hold on to your tongue. Nothing is more important and nothing is conducive to happiness more than controlling the tongue. —Rev. Dr. Frank Oliver Hall, Universalist, New York.

Prophet of His Age.

There is a deal of difference between a dreamer and a seer. The man who lives in dreamland amid the stern realities of life accomplishes nothing. The man with a vision becomes the prophet of his age.—Rev. Ingram E. Bill, Baptist, Chicago.

Highest In God's Kingdom.

He who makes himself most useful, who uses all the gifts of mind, heart and will which he has to serve the needs of human lives, who holds every choice gift of thought, feeling and purpose as valuable only for the service which it can give, he is the highest in the kingdom of heaven.—Rev. Dr. H. Richard Harris, Episcopalian, Philadelphia.

The True Christian Church.

No church is great, no congregation takes rank in God's honor roll, except by the service to those who need. The church's warrant is not in its history or its institutions or its political prestige, but only in the service it renders and the love it brings near to men. The truly Christian church is a union of all who love in the service of all who suffer.—Rev. Dr. James Alexander Macdonald, Presbyterian, Toronto.

Best Thing In the World.

The mighty thing we call life is just the response that life makes to the call of other life conceived as larger and better. Let love lay hold of God and it becomes not only the best but the strongest thing in the world. Augustine spoke the truth when he said, "Ama et fac quod vis" ("Love and you can do what you will"). Therein lies the hope of the future for men who have the vision and have the world.—Rev. Dr. B. L. Whitman, Baptist, Seattle, Wash.

Mission of Christianity.

We should read the Bible to learn its sympathy with humanity. It is on the people's side. It champions their rights. Christianity's mission is to bring about a more equitable distribution of the world's wealth. Man's religion should be judged as much by his attitude toward man as toward God. Iniquity toward man is iniquity toward God. Christ placed as much emphasis on the brotherhood of man as the fatherhood of God. Some time on this earth there will be a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." Its national anthem should be not "God Save the King," but "God Save the People."—Rev. Dr. J. B. Silcox, Congregationalist, Kansas City, Mo.

The Christian's Indian Summer.

Who does not love the autumnal Indian summer? Skies soft, air balmy and sweet, springs overflowing in their buoyancy—it seems indeed as if it needed but the song of the bluebird and bobolink, with the whistle of the robin and croaking of the frog, to send us out on the hunt for hyacinths and daffodils. It is easy to draw a close parallel between the Indian summer of the late autumn and the experience of the man or woman permitted to grow old in Christ. The charm of Indian summer consists not alone of its soft skies and balmy air and golden sunsets, but there is a mysterious, indefinable hush which has fallen over field and hill and river. It seems to speak of the realization of hopes long cherished, of the dropping of the fever pulse to the normal, as if nature were saying, "The crisis has passed, and now I may rest, for all is well." Once you struggled to be rich, worried because you could not attain your ideal, and all the time were rich, but did not know it. This revelation was reserved as one of the surprises of your Indian summer. What a picture is this—a contented child of God in the Indian summer of his life sitting at life's west window gazing with radiant face and hope glinted eyes toward the shining hilltops of glory!—Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Spooner, Presbyterian, Washington.

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RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Gems Gleaned From the Teachings of All Denominations.

A good deed for the sake of getting your name in the paper is not Christian charity.—Rev. W. H. Day, Congregationalist, Los Angeles, Cal.

Barrenness.

We shall mend our barrenness only when we get into the thought of God's presence in all our life.—Rev. Dr. B. L. Whitman, Baptist, Seattle, Wash.

Our Business.

Your business is not to make a living, but to live a life. You should do a man's work and build up a manly character.—Rev. C. L. Mead, Methodist, Newark, N. J.

God's Desire.

The thing that God wants us to do is to stand as representatives of him and realize that what he would do we can do by the aid of his power in and through our lives.—Rev. D. W. Bartlett, Baptist, Los Angeles, Cal.

Type of Heaven.

Home is a type of heaven and should be the sweetest, purest and most beautiful place on earth. The cheeriest word, the kindliest act and the happiest spirit should ever characterize the home.—Rev. Zed H. Copp, Presbyterian, Washington.

The Way Onward.

The way onward is through inward growth. Deal so manfully and grandly with the place you now hold that men are compelled to see that you are too large for it. Then the world will seek you for its higher work.—Rev. C. E. St. John, Unitarian, Philadelphia.

Character and Destiny.

If God does not change, if human instincts do not fail, if nature's laws are not reversed, then will man because he is man live forever, as he chooses, at the right hand of God or in the regions of despair. His character will determine his destiny.—Rev. Dr. Luce, Methodist Episcopal, Cleveland.

Effort.

Nothing is accomplished without effort in the physical world, and the same holds true in the supernatural world. As we labor to provide the food and drink to nourish our earthly bodies, so we must strive to be worthy of the spiritual food, which is Christ Himself.—Rev. G. F. Seymour, Episcopalian, Chicago.

Most Effective Prayer.

All our prayers and good works should begin with a prayer of thanksgiving to God. A prayer of thanksgiving is the most effective prayer. It is only just, meet, right and proper at all times to give thanks to God. Do not complain, grumble or find fault with things. Be thankful for everything.—Cardinal Gibbons, Roman Catholic, Baltimore.

The Man Who Has a Creed.

The truth is a man's character is no bigger and no better than his creed, for information makes his knowledge, and knowledge makes his experience. As his experience grows his creed grows larger. The dwarf knows no creed and wants none. It is the growing man who has a creed. The best Christian believes most because he has experienced most.—Rev. W. A. Mathews, Baptist, Chicago.

Life at Its Worst Is Worth While.

Our pain and sorrow have a redemptive effect, and the end is not yet. The world bows in homage at the feet of the sufferers whom history has crowned. In the midst of it all there rises the shadow of a cross, and beneath that cross of Jesus we learn that, though the battle is sore, victory is sure. We learn there that life at its worst is worth while and feel there the throb of immortality.—Rev. Hugh T. Kerr, Presbyterian, Chicago.

Men the World Needs.

The man who is to be a leader of his fellow men, who is to make his presence felt for right in this world, must emancipate himself from the bondage of public opinion. The follow-the-leader policy so much in vogue in present day life is unwholesome and harmful and hinders greatly the progress of the world. All of the great reforms of history have been started and frequently completed by noted egotists. Men who have convictions and are willing to stand up for them regardless of public opinion and sayings directed against them by clever people are the kind the world needs.—Rev. Joseph A. Milburn, Congregationalist, Chicago.

Need of Religious Teaching.

The United States census shows that from 1890 to 1906 there has been a most encouraging and healthy growth in the Episcopal church and in all of the older religious sects. Many of the small sects in that time have disappeared, while the increase of our church has been at least 67.50 per cent. I have real regard for the Roman Catholic church body, especially for the wonderful energy shown by it. In the sixteen years covered by the census that body has shown an increase of 6,000,000 members or 93.6 per cent. That is an interesting statement. Do you realize that the parochial schools which are fostered by this church are the biggest factors in this growth? In New York city alone the Roman Catholic church has parochial schools that have an aggregate of 100,000 pupils. There the children are taught the Christian truths as they have been received by the Roman Catholic church. We are forced to realize that the real educational force is the teaching of these truths, and all education must include religious teaching. Our church would do well to establish such schools, and I hope that we may soon see the establishment of parochial schools. The children in the Roman Catholic schools learn loyalty to their religion and affection for their teachers. The public schools are a drawback to religion, as they give no religious teaching. —Bishop Frederick Burgess of Long Island Diocese of Episcopal Church.

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Power of God's Life.

The divine life is progressive. As the first sweet strains of the organ grow at last into a swelling tide of heavenly harmonies, whose grandeur thrills and enthralls our inmost being, so the life of God in the human soul may rise to unimagined richness and fullness.—Rev. Austen K. De Blois, Baptist, Chicago.

Character a Byproduct.

Ennobled and enduring character cannot be directly made. It is a byproduct of useful, practical activities. Men strive to be good and true in their daily lives. The surprising result is that glorious manhood that is the final effect of such living. What men think, purpose, do, that they become.—Rev. A. B. Beresford, Universalist, Cincinnati.

How to Win Victory.

The Christian church, if it be true to its Lord, must first heartily believe and then proclaim its faith that not by might nor by power, but by the spirit, are victories won. The task that is set before this people is to prepare for themselves the weapons with which the great contests are fought and by which they are decided.—Rev. Lewis T. Reed, Congregationalist, Brooklyn.

How to Be Happy.

The springs of happiness are within. They are moral and spiritual in their nature. It is hard for the mother in her round of trivial duties, for the teacher in the wearying monotony of the schoolroom, for the workman in the deadening routine of daily labor, to be buoyant and happy. But all can be if they will, and they ought to will so to be. We must draw our resources from ourselves, filled with the spirit of God, who wills our happiness.—Bishop Samuel Fallows, Reformed Episcopal, Chicago.

Protector of the Weak.

The true religion is that which recognizes, helps and protects the weak. Too much is it the spirit of the times that might is always right and the weak are always wrong. This principle of conduct is best illustrated among the nations of the earth. The Jewish religion does not teach such rules. Christianity teaches to pity the weak. Judaism teaches to help the weak so they may become strong. It is our belief that civilization is no stronger than the weakest.—Dr. Emil

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