

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Following is a sermon by the Rev. J. Alfred Nansen of First Evangelical Church, which was recently printed in an Eastern religious journal.

The conviction grows upon me that we are too careless and unconcerned about the significance and nature of the life we profess. I profess no special aptitude or ability for treating the subject except that I have delved into the study of it for my own personal benefit and have found the Scriptures rich in material which is both explicit and suggestive.

Before the early church was extensively organized into an institution and before the doctrines were stereotyped into creeds, primitive Christianity was known simply as THE WAY OF LIFE. Both by spoken address and by living a generous and joyously helpful life, Jesus marked out the way He desired His disciples to live.

A way of life, like the art of a musician, has certain principles which can be successfully taught by precepts. Jesus has given certain principles which men are invited to adopt because they give promise of guiding them on the way of life. It was because He knew that men could not live THE WAY without understanding its principles that He gave Himself enthusiastically and eagerly to the task of instructing His disciples in the way of life. These principles of the Christian life are what the laws of harmony are to the musician, or what the laws of perspective are to the artist or the laws of navigation are to the sailor. To one who has not caught the spirit of the way, Christian life may look like a heavy yoke, but to the one who finds the principles a guide to living the noblest and happiest life, the yoke is easy and the burden light.

The Christian life is simply one of two possible ways of living and the choice of this way in preference to the way of the world rests entirely with the individual.

Can you imagine a lake of water nearby which has frozen over and become glossy and smooth? A friend presents you with a pair of skates. If you will not learn to skate the fault rests with you. You cannot learn to skate until you have felt

it worth while to strap the skates upon your feet and take a few incidental falls while you learn to observe the laws of motion and the principles of skating. Precisely so, if a man is not a Christian it is because he has been unwilling to put on the garment of salvation and learn to live according to the principles which Christ has given by which He makes clear the way of life.

This leads me to say very decidedly that to be a Christian does not necessarily mean to be perfect in conduct. There ought to be development in the direction of perfection and will be if the effort to live the Christian way is sincere. But we find in every congregation varying degrees of perfection, ranging all the way from the blundering attempts of the one who has lived in sin until habits have become deep-rooted before he has resolved to live the Christian life, to the sanctified accuracy of the one who has lived the Christian life faithfully for half a century.

Nor does it mean that we shall all agree in the minor details of the way. Just as there are varying degrees of perfection of conduct among Christian people, so there are varying degrees of knowledge.

Before we take up the consideration of the characteristics of the Christian it is essential that we should characterize the gate at the entrance of the way of life. A new way of living involves, as a matter of course, a new attitude of mind and heart. Jesus has labeled this gateway with a word which translators have rendered "repentance." Lidell and Scott's Dictionary of New Testament Greek defines the term by making it mean, "A change of attitude based on reflection or conviction."

This changed attitude brings from the Father the exercise of forgiving favor and the penitent soul has only to exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ and he finds himself on the way of life. "Who-so-ever believeth on Christ shall have remission of sins." Acts 10:43. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3:18. He has been convicted of the evil of his way and made conscious of a better way, and, in consequence, has changed his attitude. With saving faith in Christ he now enters upon the way of life.

Faith is the confidence which the traveler has in the mariner who di-

rects the course of the ship. It is the trust an inexperienced apprentice places in the master mechanic. It is the child's grasping of the parents' hand for support and guidance. It is an expression of confidence in Christ who has invited all men to learn of Him and to follow Him.

Characteristic of the Christian who now stands upon the way of life is an eagerness to learn the principles of the way and a willingness to follow the example of his saving Lord.

1. Eagerness to understand the principles of the way is one of the marks of identification. The Christian must enroll in the school of Christ. As a child grows in mental vigor and accumulates knowledge in our public schools so also should the Christian grow in knowledge of the way of life. In order to do this he will form personal habits of Bible study. It should be his practice to read a well chosen passage of Scripture every morning and make it food for thought during the day. He should be eager to hear the word expounded by the minister who is called of God for his work and who is diligent in his effort to rightly interpret the Scriptures he will desire to be an intelligent Christian and will never relinquish his effort to grow in knowledge and understanding of the principles of the Kingdom.

2. The Christian will conscientiously endeavor to follow the example of his Lord. This will lead him to form personal habits of prayer. He will commune much with God in private. He will pray in the presence of other members of the family in the sanctity of the home. He will pray in public for the edification of others. If he is a Christian he will be a man of prayer.

He will also resist temptation. To be a Christian by no means exempts one from temptation. Even Christ was tempted.

He will let his light shine by

RUGS

SEND IN YOUR OLD CARPETS AND CLEAN RAGS

WE WILL MAKE THEM OVER INTO BEAUTIFUL RUGS

Downers Grove Weaving Wks

HIGHLAND NEAR LINCOLN

Phone 32-J

RUGS FOR SALE

standing up with courage for his Christian convictions.

He will be kind, humble, forgiving, longsuffering and patient.

Like his Master, he will be interested in the spread of the Kingdom. Having himself tasted of the joys of the way of life, like the first disciples, he will invite others to "come and see."

In brief, a Christian is one whose past sins have been forgiven because he has changed his attitude and has exercised saving faith in Jesus Christ. This faith has led him to enroll in the school of Christ where he is eagerly learning the principles of the way. It also leads him to follow the example of Christ down the path-

Vote For

J. B. STERENBERG

Republican Candidate

For

COUNTY CLERK

Whose thirty years of business experience assures capable and efficient service. Your support at the Primaries on April 11, 1922, will be appreciated.

Results with Classified Ads are Sure. Merely—



188-J

Ask for ad-taker.

ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET QUALITY GOODS at Low Prices GROCERIES

- 18 lbs. Granulated Sugar for \$1.00
Potatoes, per peck 45c
Bacon Squares, per pound 15c
Cream of Wheat 24c
Graham Crackers, per package 10c
Jersey Cornflakes, 3 packages for 20c
Richelieu Oats, large package 20c
Macaroni or Spaghetti, 3 packages for 25c
Del Monte Seedless Raisins, 15 oz. package 25c
Sun Maid Seeded Raisins, 15 oz. package 23c
Dromedary Dates, per package 22c
10 lbs. Corn Meal for 25c
Prunes, 40-50 size, per pound 18c
Baker's or Runkel's Chocolate, 1/2 lb. 20c
Small Can Milk, 6c; 1 dozen for 65c
Large Can Milk, per can 10c
Lima Beans, 2 cans for 25c
Libby's Pork and Beans, medium, 2 cans for 25c
Libby's Salmon, No. 1 can 32c
Richelieu Salmon, No. 1 can 45c
Richelieu Sweet Wrinkled Peas, per can 23c
Pride of Aurora Corn, can 11c; per dozen \$1.20
Falcon Corn, per can 10c; dozen cans for \$1.10
Broken Sliced Pineapple, can 25c; dozen \$2.85
Apricots, No. 2 1/2 can 28c
Libby's Sliced Yel. Cling Peaches, 35c; 3 for \$1.00
Tom Boy Tomatoes, No. 3 can 18c
None Such Tomatoes, No. 2 can 14c

DRY GOODS

- Men's Bear Brand Work Shirts 99c
New Percale, 27 in., per yard 11c
Unbleached Muslin, per yard 12 1/2 c
Boy's Button Shoes, \$4.00 value; pair \$2.00 to \$2.50

TWO DELIVERIES EVERY DAY

H. C. PITCHER Dry Goods - Groceries

Cor. Main & Curtiss Sts

Phones 175 & 176

DODGE BROTHERS

announce

a substantial reduction in the prices of their cars effective January 1st, 1922



KIDWELL GARAGE COMPANY

MAIN & WARREN

TELEPHONE 284

Efficiency in Workmanship Good Faith in Relationship

Sheetmetal



Electrical

GLOOM CHASERS

Where can be found more cheer than in a well lighted home?

Two of the most important features to be considered about that new home are—the windows and the LIGHTING system.

Electric fixtures should be selected with utmost care. And their arrangement and height of hanging are also important — We feel well qualified to serve you — Be it for that new home — or a re-arrangement of your present abode.

But make the family circle a cheerful one with— LIGHT!

DIENER BROTHERS

PHONE 199-R

165 SO. MAIN ST.

DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.

INTELLIGENT HOT AIR HEATING

All Leather Work Shoe

All That the Name Implies

EXPERT SHOE REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS RUBBER HEELS HORSE BLANKETS

C. Penner

108 South Main St.

Downers Grove, Ill.