

"NARROW ESCAPE"

Sunday Discourse by Dr. Chapman, of the North Presbyterian Church.

Wonderful indeed is the Man of Salvation For the Sinner, Yet Exceedingly Simple-Transit Him Who Promises to Save.

NEW YORK CITY.—The following readable and helpful sermon is by the Rev. Dr. W. Chapman, the best known evangelist in the country, and one of the most popular pulp orators of New York. It is entitled "A Narrow Escape," and was preached from the text, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:3.

The wonder of wonders in this world is the plan of salvation for the sinner through Jesus Christ. It is as wonderful as a man with the greatest mind the world has ever known has never yet been able to think his way through it, and at the same time in your home can appreciate enough of it to be saved.

The first chapter of Hebrews presents to us the dignity of Christ. He is at the right hand of God; He is better than the angels; when the elements have melted with a fervent heat, He still exists; when the heavens have been rolled together as a scroll, He shall be beyond all power of God. With such a description as this in the first chapter we come naturally to the first part of the second chapter. There we are urged to give up our present life for the things which we have heard of at any time we should let them slip.

A Cunard steamer was making her way across the Atlantic Ocean when the passengers were startled with a cry of "man overboard." Immediately every eye was turned to the sea. One man sprang to the edge of the deck and shouted "I will give a thousand pounds to any one who will save the man that is sinking, for he is my brother." Every sailor was ready to throw himself into the sea to save the man in the reward and save the man. The captain manned the lifeboat, and soon a cheer went up which had laid hands upon the sinking one. The lifeboat was near the great steamer, ropes were fastened around the man and the signal was given to lift him up. Just as they were reaching out their hands to make his salvation sure the great steamer, ropes were fastened to his head upon the lifeboat, bounded into the sea and was gone forever. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews must have had this incident before his mind when he said, "We ought to give the more earnest heed that we may let them slip." I have seen a man in the kingdom of God than that, just one step and they would have been saved, but they slipped away, and then gave up hope.

It is a great salvation because it discloses to us a great Saviour, shows us how we may be saved from great sin, and also reveals how we may be restored to great blessing and happiness.

First, it is great in its author. The name of the author we are to sell a book, and the name of the author of the plan of salvation ought to commend it to every one. If He is the author two things are true: first that the plan is the work of Him, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Secondly, it is great in its author. The child of man who printed the Bible. He was a member of the Church of Rome, and the child had been taught that God could only be approached by means of penance and sacrifice. One day in the printer's office she found a little crumpled piece of paper which contained a part of this verse, which Luther called the "Gospel in a nutshell," all written in German. She loved the world that He gave—It produced a great impression upon her. One day her mother heard her singing and asked her the secret of her happiness. He answered by showing her the little piece of paper, and her mother said, "What does it mean?" for she said, "It does not tell us anything, it is only words." "If He loved us we would not be afraid of Him." "Again, if God is the author, His is the only way of salvation. Men decide to come to God by their own strength, and by the power of resolution, but this profits nothing, for reformation may touch the present, and may possibly avail for the future, but it does not give us the heart of God. The way back to God has always been sprinkled with blood. Study the Old Testament and you will find this is true. But when the sinner became so great, and if He loved us we would not be afraid of anything, we need not be afraid of Him."

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Prayer is the abiding background in the life of the Christian. Prayer is a holy art, in which the best of us are beginners. When God gives us His way, He will not neglect to provide for our wants. God never makes us feel our weakness except to lead us to seek strength from Him.

When we make all the centre of life, God becomes a mere point on a far-off circumference.

The hope of the Christian is the hope in God's word and God's oath, sealed by His love.

If God puts you in a dark place it may be to lead you to the light that is in you.—Raim's Horn.

It is said that in a certain town in New York a good many years ago there occurred a fire which was extinguished without any known cause. The inquiry was made, "Who is praying?" This word must be in answer to somebody's prayer. It was afterwards learned that two old church members, who lived one mile apart, had made arrangements to meet half way between them in a piece of thick wadded every evening at sundown to pray God to revive His work. Their prayers were answered, and one hundred and fifty were added, during the months of July, August and September, to the church.

The Pentecostal revival did not begin with preaching, but with prayer. Forgiveness. Pardon means more with God than with men. With men a pardon may be taken from the prison doors and sent the guilty man to his home, but because of the order the chances are he will have a few peaceful nights, and then in his dreams as he is in his waking moments his sin will be before him. This is because he has not been pardoned and not justified. When God pardons He justifies freely and forever. Forgiveness means more with God than with men. With men a pardon may be taken from the prison doors and sent the guilty man to his home, but because of the order the chances are he will have a few peaceful nights, and then in his dreams as he is in his waking moments his sin will be before him. This is because he has not been pardoned and not justified. When God pardons He justifies freely and forever. Forgiveness means more with God than with men. With men a pardon may be taken from the prison doors and sent the guilty man to his home, but because of the order the chances are he will have a few peaceful nights, and then in his dreams as he is in his waking moments his sin will be before him. This is because he has not been pardoned and not justified. When God pardons He justifies freely and forever.

A distinguished minister, in preaching to him specially, told the story of his own heart, how he had almost broken his mother's heart, made his hair gray before the time, and made her hair gray, but because of the order the chances are he will have a few peaceful nights, and then in his dreams as he is in his waking moments his sin will be before him. This is because he has not been pardoned and not justified. When God pardons He justifies freely and forever.

A woman with gray hair and bent form, she then her arms about his neck and said, "My son, who did you tell me never was bad in all this world?" and this her heart, and yet for her mother's love she had forgotten in all this was a glimpse of God remembering our transgressions as we come to Him. Our sins are passed away as if they had never been. This is where they never can be found. They are cast behind God's back, so that now life is between the sinner and his sins. They are taken from him as far as the sinner is from the west, a distance which cannot be measured.

On preaching one day in Philadelphia, in the Young Men's Association, the Secretary told me of a man sitting in the rear of the room, a most awful sight to behold. He had been sleeping in the streets, but when he had been taken home and he came to Christ. He was an honored member of my own church. He was a professor of mathematics, and had been slain by being struck by a lightning rod. It was my custom to hold a service every Sunday morning for men in that church, and one morning I told them that God had

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International Lesson Comments for September 28.

Review of the Preceding Twelve Lessons for the Third Quarter, Deut. viii. 1-16.—Golden Text, Deut. viii. 18.—Introduction and Summary.

Introduction.—During the past quarter we have had several important lessons. The Lord certainly put forth every effort in behalf of His people. Their temporal and spiritual necessities were attended to. Bread was provided, the commandments given, idolatry punished, a house erected for Jehovah, intercession punished, the promised land viewed by chosen men, a Prophet like Moses promised, and then, finally, Moses, the great lawgiver, was called to his reward without having entered upon his earthly inheritance.

Summary.—Lesson I. Topic: Heavenly bread. Place: Wilderness of Sin. The Israelites journeyed from Egypt to the wilderness of Sin; they murmured against Moses and Aaron; they feared they would starve in the wilderness. The Lord promised to lead them to the land of Canaan, and to bring them down from heaven; directions were given regarding the gathering of the manna; the Sabbath was observed; they were murmuring against the Lord, not against Moses and Aaron.

Lesson II. Topic: God's covenant with man. Place: Mount Sinai. God spoke to the people with His own voice and gave them the ten commandments. This lesson embraces the first four. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Lesson III. Topic: The duties we owe to our fellow-men. Place: Mount Sinai. This lesson embraces the last six of the ten commandments. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not covet.

Lesson IV. Topic: Israel's idol worship. Place: Mount Sinai. After the ten commandments were given to the children of Israel, the Lord called Moses up the mountain, and he remained for forty days. The Israelites persuaded Aaron to make a golden calf, which they worshipped. Moses came from the mountain, and seeing the law, called those who were on the Lord's side to come to him and punished the people for their great sin.

Lesson V. Topic: Seeking out the tabernacle. Place: Mount Sinai. Moses commanded that the tabernacle be set up; the ark and the furniture was to be put in the tabernacle; the altar of burnt offering and the laver were to be put in the court before the tabernacle; Aaron and his sons to be washed with water; Aaron was to be clad with the holy garments, anointed and sanctified. All was done exactly as God commanded.

Lesson VI. Topic: The consequences of drunkenness. Place: Mount Sinai. Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, put strange fire in their censers and went in before the Lord; the fire of the Lord devoured them; Aaron commanded not to drink wine or strong drink. God puts a difference between the holy and unholy, and between the clean and clean.

Lesson VII. Topic: Leaving Sinai for Canaan. Place: Mount Sinai. Parah. The cloud in which the Lord went down upon the children of Israel left the wilderness of Sinai and journey to Parah. Moses invites Hobab to accompany them, but he refuses to do so. The Lord leads His people by day and by night.

Lesson VIII. Topic: The land of Canaan. Place: Kadesh Barnea. One man from each tribe was sent to search the land of Canaan; they were gone forty days; they brought back some of the fruit of the land; they reported that the land was good, but that the people were giants, and that the Lord would not go with them. The Lord sent the spies, and the people murmured against Moses; the Lord punished them with fiery serpents among them; the people came to Moses for help; Moses goes to God, and is directed to make a serpent and put it on a pole, and "every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live."

Lesson IX. Topic: True and false worship. Place: East of the Jordan, opposite Jericho. The abominations were removed, and enumerated, and positively forbidden by the Almighty. The Lord promises to raise up a Prophet from among them, unto whom they should harken. The Lord warns the land of Canaan.

Lesson X. Topic: The blessing and the curse. Place: East of the Jordan, opposite Jericho. God's commandments are not hidden, and are not afar off; the blessing is life and good, and death and evil; the commandment is given to love God and walk in His ways; a blessing is promised to those who do, and a curse is pronounced upon those who worship other gods and serve them; all are urged to choose life.

Lesson XI. Topic: Closing scenes in the life of Moses. Place: Moab. Moses goes down from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah; the Lord showed him the land of promise, but told him that he should not cross the Jordan, and that he should die there. Moses was 120 years old when he died; the children of Israel wept for him thirty days. Moses for forty years in the wilderness had borne great responsibilities, suffered and endured, and now he was to die. His prayers were answered, and one hundred and fifty were added, during the months of July, August and September, to the church.

Lesson XII. Topic: The revival in the life of the church. Place: East of the Jordan, opposite Jericho. The church is compared to a vine; the fruit is the good works of the church members; the church is to be planted in the heart of the people; the church is to be watered with the Word of God; the church is to be pruned by the Word of God; the church is to be fruitful in good works; the church is to be a blessing to the world.

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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TOPICS.

September 28.—"Missions: Missionary Heroes Cheerful Amid Adversity." Acts. xvii. 22-26.

Scripture Verses.—Acts iv. 1-3; v. 17, 18, 40; xiv. v. 9-13; ix. 22-25; xii. 1-5; xiii. 50; xiv. 17; xv. 19-24; xvi. 20; xx. 22-24; xxi. 30-33; xxiii. 12-15; i Cor. iv. 9-13.

Lesson Thoughts.

When our Christian service seems to lead us into great privations and self-sacrifice and hardships, it will make our burdens light to remember that Jesus suffered infinitely more for us, and that he is able and willing to give us the same strength for endurance that he had. The hero of missions is a hero of faith. Heathen lands in themselves offer very little prospect of success; but in the face of heathen opposition he goes ahead, looking to God in faith for guidance and success.

Selections.

I dare not work my soul to save—That work my Lord has done; But I will work like any slave For love of God's dear Son.

Difficulties are no proof in themselves that one is on the wrong road. Not only hardships, but discouragements in Christian work, have been the lot of many that were unquestionably answering the call of duty. The lives of Carey and Moffat and scores of other missionary pioneers are full of illustrations. It is not to be thought strange, that the surprises which come into the life of every follower of Christ.

We cannot have the graces of Christian life without the means that go to the making of those graces. We never shall have faith that is strong if we can always see every step ahead; it is of little use to pray for patience, and then chafe under each trial of patience; we never learn the depth of love when our love has no occasion to reach out to those that do not love us.

Suggested Hymns.

Conquering now and still to conquer. Young men in Christ the Lord. Speed away, speed away. Onward, Christian soldiers. Throw out the life line. Am I a soldier of the cross?

EPWORTH LEAGUE MEETING TOPICS.

September 28.—"Christ and Adversity." Acts 27. 22-36.

The Bible gives account of two great storms at sea. The one narrates Jonah's experience, so familiar to all students of Scripture. Jonah's troubles were of a personal nature, and after a time he learned obedience out of his afflictions. Paul was on a mission divinely assigned him, and cheerfully accepted whatever might be his accompaniments along the way. He was sure that God knew what was best for order. This unflinching trust gave him calmness and even cheerfulness in the raging storm. He counted his experiences only "light afflictions" after all.

Solomon assures us that "A merry heart doth good like a medicine." Nothing right is impossible to him who really believes that all things not absurd are possible with God. We must hold up Christ, not ourselves, to the wall if we would be happy. As sunshine is the source of nearly all power in the physical world so is God cheer the essential element of most efficient effort in spiritual undertakings. Cheerfulness is conducive to self-reliance, and self-reliance is inattentive. It is this trait that makes heroism unattractive. Heroism is not heroism unless it so inspires others that they will be inclined to imitate it.

Adverse conditions every life has, but O, how grand to make one's way through the years with head erect and a word of cheer for others at every turn. A noble missionary in Turkey laughed his children to look on the bright side, saying to them, "If there is no light side polish up the dark side of your life, and you will have a proverb that we may all heed sometimes to advantage. It is to the effect that "You cannot prevent the birds of sadness from flying over your heads, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair." The continual flow of cheerful spirits will afford a time form for one the habit of spontaneously finding some delight in every condition of life, no matter how adverse.

"There stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve." How supporting! How wonderfully cheering! With such personal recognition from heaven why should not Paul have been tranquil while all others on board were of consternation? Surely he had no need to fear. Nor have, no matter how alarming outside conditions appear, if we are fully centered in God. When a friend visited Benjamin Parsons in his last illness, which was one of excruciating pain, he said to him, "How are you today, my friend?" His reply was, "My head is resting very sweetly on three pillows—infinite power, infinite wisdom, and infinite love."

He knew the Faculty. Col. M. H. Welsh, of Lancaster, once arrived in Steelton, Pa., early in the morning to make arrangements for a circus performance at that place. To obtain his license it was necessary to see the Burgess of the town.

The first person he met was a large, burly Virginia negro, who was on his way to work at the steel works. Colonel Welsh approached the fellow and said: "Captain, can you tell me where I can find the Burgess of Steelton?" "Say, boss, I'm a stranger around here myself, and all I can say is keep away from dem Burgesses. I was engaged to be married one time to Mary Elizabeth Burgess and dey is a pesky lot of niggers."

A Boy of Promise. Robert Louis Stevenson's ward and step-grandson, Austin Strong, is turning out to be a boy of genius. A boy just out of school, he has come to the front of his profession, that of landscape architect, by laying out one of the greatest public gardens in the world—Cromwell park, in Auckland, New Zealand. He was 20 years of age when he accepted the commission. His father was J. D. Strong, one of the foremost artists of the older school in San Francisco, and his mother, Isobel Strong, writes and illustrates for the leading magazines.

Specimen of Georgia Wit. Recent earthquakes in the west recall the fact that on the night of the seismic disturbances of 1836 in Georgia the Macon city council was in session. The city hall was shaken from basement to attic and the councilmen ran for their lives. Later the wag who kept the minutes of the meeting closed his report in this way: "On motion of the city hall the council adjourned."

Premiums on Gold Dollars. The United States gold dollar is so scarce that dealers in old and rare coins are advertising everywhere for them, offering from \$1.50 to \$3 apiece for as many as they can get. Since 1839 the United States mints have not coined any gold dollars. Since then their value has increased steadily.

In the mint in Philadelphia, where the dies for all United States currency are made, a reporter was given the present value of a gold dollar of 1839. Those marked C. (Carson City) are worth from \$1.70 to \$2.50. Those marked D. (Denver) are worth from \$2 to \$2.50; those marked S. (San Francisco) are worth from \$2 to \$3.

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THE GREAT DESTROYER.

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTERTEMPERANCE.

Poem: A Tumbler of Claret—A Story That Would Folly Adorn a Temperance Lecture—The Method by Which a Life Was Reformed.

"A friend" in the latest hours, "a communion" I called the red wine, And sometimes I postured slightly and called it a nectar divine. But to-day as I gazed on the claret that sparkled and glowed in the sun, I asked it: "What have you done for me that any true friend would have done?"

"You have given me some pleasant feelings, but they always were followed by pain; You have given me hundreds of headaches and an aching to do it again; You sat my blood leaping and bounding, which, though pleasant, was hurtful, no doubt, And I dropped up the acquaintance I am sure you will give me the gout."

"I remember a certain occasion when you were in act like a fool, And, yes, I remember another when you made me fall into a pool. And where is Tom Smither? You killed him, but how? How did you do it? Both my friends, and I might count a dozen, you have sent to prison or grave."

"Is this a loyal friend's treatment, and are you deserving the name? Say, what do you give those who love you but never get sorrow and shame? A few paltry moments of pleasure, an eye of trouble and grief. No wonder you blush in the sunlight, you robber, you liar, you thief!"

"I'll have nothing more to do with you from this moment, this hour, this day, this week, this year, this life. To send you adrift bag and baggage I know is the only safe way." And I poured out that tumbler of claret—poured it out and not down on the spot. And all this, you see, was accomplished by just a few moments of thought.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The Black Bottle. The Macon (Ga.) Telegraph tells the following true story that "would fitly adorn a temperance lecture." Happening into a grocery store the reporter saw a lady who was buying a hat for her little girl. The child made herself sociable with him, and remarked, prattling artlessly, "We dot lot of money."

"Where did you get it, my little girl?" "Papa broke de bottle." This called for an explanation on the mother's part, for I see the angle becoming more and more intertempers. Her intertemperate husband had been reformed five years before, at the time their oldest boy had died. This is the tale she told, beginning as the story of many a reformed life has begun—at a loved one's death bed.

The little fellow slowly turned his eyes toward his father and said: "I'm going to die, papa, for I see the angle becoming more and more intertempers. Her intertemperate husband had been reformed five years before, at the time their oldest boy had died. This is the tale she told, beginning as the story of many a reformed life has begun—at a loved one's death bed.

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COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

General Trade Conditions.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: Industrial activity is greater than at any recent date. Many new factories and mills have been added to the productive capacity, facilities are being increased at old plants and idle shops are being reworked through the settlement of labor controversies.

A coke blockade still exists, the railways being unable to handle the output, which is above all records and in urgent request. Despite the rapid development of transportation facilities the nation's needs have grown still faster and the situation is distressing for shippers and consumers.

Retail trade is large, with a bright outlook for the future in jobbing and wholesale business. There are few of the cancellations so numerous at this time last year, while collections are improving.

Although the weekly capacity of the pig iron furnaces in blast on September 1 was reported as 335,180 tons by the "Iron Age," it has since been appreciably curtailed by the inadequate supply of fuel, on which account numerous furnaces were blown out