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The Returning Saint
By REV. JAMES M. GRAY, D. D.
Dean of Moody Bible Institute, Chicago
TEXT—Resters unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy right spirit.—Psalm 51:12.
This is one of the best-known and most highly praised Psalms of David, which one has called, "the mold or experience of a sinner who comes back to God in full communion and service."
David, it must be remembered, was a man at one time in full communion with God, even though he so greatly sinned, as these Psalms indicate. Through a sudden and strong temptation he committed the gross sin of adultery, and then tried to cover over some of the effects of it by being accessory to the sin of murder. Nevertheless, and because he did really know God, his conviction of sin in the premises nearly broke his heart. His cry of repentance and appeal for mercy are recorded in this Psalm, whose wail of sorrow and subsequent shout of joy have been heard through all the ages bringing instruction and comfort to many another sinner.
It is for this reason so instructive for us to observe how David returned to God. First of all, he clearly and definitely judged his own sin before God. This is expressed in the first six verses of the Psalm where he cries out for mercy, acknowledging his guilt and pleading for a thorough cleansing from his iniquity.
Forgiveness and Cleansing.
In the next division of the Psalm we see forgiveness and cleansing accorded him and secured on his part by faith in the atoning blood. This is expressed in verses 7-10, in the symbolism of the hyssop, in the washing of his soul until it is whiter than snow, in the blotting out of his iniquity, and in the creation within him of a clean heart.
We now see the restored one filled with the Spirit of God, in verses 11-17. He is filled with the joy of salvation; he is filled with power to teach transgressors and convert sinners; he is filled with the spirit of service and with the spirit of worship as indicated in his overflowing praise, and the presentation unto God of the sacrifice of a broken spirit and a contrite heart.
Finally he is seen in fellowship with God and interested now, not so much in things concerning himself, as in the things that concern God. His cry is, "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build thou the walls of Jerusalem." This beautiful outline of the Psalm is suggested by the Scofield Reference Bible, and ought to bring the greatest comfort to any soul weary and heavy-laden with the burden of sin, and who is really desirous to find the way of deliverance from it.
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One finds all the more encouragement to urge this because the same truth, only put in another way, is set before us again in the New Testament. You will find it in the First Epistle of John, chapter I, verse 9, where, addressing Christian believers, he says, "If we confess our sins, He (I. e. God), is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
Because a man is saved by God's grace through faith in Christ, I. e., because he is a true Christian believer, is not to say that he will never again commit a sin against God. It is indeed his privilege, through the power of God's spirit dwelling within him, to continually live a life of victory over sin, and yet, like David, he may fall.
Under such circumstances, what is he to do? Has he lost out again? Has he utterly fallen never to be restored any more? Has Christ's sacrifice forever lost its efficacy for him? No, thank God, Christ, as his high priest in heaven, ever liveth to make intercession for him. And now, like David again, it is for him to judge his sin before God, for that is really the meaning of the word, "confess." Let him do this, and he will find God "faithful and just to forgive" him. "Faithful" to his promise that means, and "just" because Jesus Christ has paid the penalty of his sin.
"Merciful and just."
That word "just" is full of strength and comfort for us. God is not only "merciful" in forgiving the man who comes to him through Christ, but he is "just" in doing so. He is "just" because that man's sins have already been atoned for on the cross, and it would be unjust to ignore that great fact and to cast the man away.
This is a lesson for Christian backsliders, and alas! there are many of them in the church. Some of them would gladly return to the father's house, but they are timid and fearful and so discouraged. But let them take heart again, for God loves and yearns over them. The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 was meant for them. That which he did insure a loving welcome for him in his old home, and so let them follow his example as outlined in the language of Psalm 51 and I John 1:9. They also will be met in the same way, and know what it is to have the old joy of their salvation restored unto them, because by grace they will be cleansed from all unrighteousness.
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I. The Place of Retreat (vv. 1-3). In his emphasis upon the spiritual grandeur of the deity of Jesus, John does not dwell upon the agony in the garden. He, however, gives us that noblest passage in the New Testament (chs. 14-17), the like of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world's writings. Having spoken these words, Jesus and his disciples went over the Brook Kedron (v. 1) to the garden, there to bear the awful weight of agony that was crushing him (Matt. 26:38), while at the same time he must strengthen his disciples, and fortify them against the coming trials. That this place was a place of frequent resort for Jesus, Judas was aware. It was a sanctuary in which Jesus met the Father, and those who knew him knew it as a place of prayer, and the most likely place to find him at that time of night (v. 3). Rebuffed at Mary's profligality, Judas had consorted with the priests, and now covetousness is to reap its reward. Judas was not hardened in a day. His greed for money, which at the same time listening to the teachings of Jesus, had gradually hardened his heart. Notice there were two hands that came out to meet Jesus that night, God's hand and the devil's. Judas had provided himself with a large company of soldiers (v. 3 R. V.). There is evidence of great fear of this humble man. God's hand was the disciples who, though they slept, were still "his own." Had Jesus seen fit to resist (Matt. 26:53) there would have been a different history recorded. His hour, the time appointed of God, had come, and he went forth to deliver himself into their hands (v. 5).
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Women of Middle Age
Many distressing Ailments experienced by them are Alleviated by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.
Here is Proof by Women who Know.
Lowell, Mass.—"For the last three years I have been troubled with the Change of Life and the bad feelings common at that time. I was in a very nervous condition, with headaches and pain a good deal of the time so I was unfit to do my work. A friend asked me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which I did, and it has helped me in every way. I am not nearly so nervous, no headache or pain. I must say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the best remedy any sick woman can take."—MRS. MARGARET QUINN, Rear 259 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass.
She Tells Her Friends to Take Lydia E. Pinkham's Remedies.
North Haven, Conn.—"When I was 45 I had the Change of Life which is a trouble all women have. At first it didn't bother me but after a while I got bearing down pains. I called in doctors who told me to try different things, but they did not cure my pains. One day my husband came home and said, 'Why don't you try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Sanative Wash?' Well, I got them and took about 10 bottles of Vegetable Compound and could feel myself regaining my health. I also used Lydia E. Pinkham's Sanative Wash and it has done me a great deal of good. Any one coming to my house who suffers from female troubles or Change of Life, I tell them to take the Pinkham remedies. There are about 30 of us here who think the world of them."—MRS. FLORENCE IRELLA, Box 197, North Haven, Conn.
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No other medicine has been so successful in relieving woman's suffering as has Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Women may receive free and helpful advice by writing the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass. Such letters are received and answered by women only and held in strict confidence.

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And the proof of this you will find, a thousand-fold over, in the records of Saxon owners—and in the opinion of motor-car buyers in general. Saxon cars have definitely established their superiority in every phase of motor car performance.
And just as surely and decisively as they have proved themselves abler acting cars, have they proved themselves cheaper cars to keep up.
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Many distressing Ailments experienced by them are Alleviated by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.
Here is Proof by Women who Know.
Lowell, Mass.—"For the last three years I have been troubled with the Change of Life and the bad feelings common at that time. I was in a very nervous condition, with headaches and pain a good deal of the time so I was unfit to do my work. A friend asked me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which I did, and it has helped me in every way. I am not nearly so nervous, no headache or pain. I must say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the best remedy any sick woman can take."—MRS. MARGARET QUINN, Rear 259 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass.
She Tells Her Friends to Take Lydia E. Pinkham's Remedies.
North Haven, Conn.—"When I was 45 I had the Change of Life which is a trouble all women have. At first it didn't bother me but after a while I got bearing down pains. I called in doctors who told me to try different things, but they did not cure my pains. One day my husband came home and said, 'Why don't you try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Sanative Wash?' Well, I got them and took about 10 bottles of Vegetable Compound and could feel myself regaining my health. I also used Lydia E. Pinkham's Sanative Wash and it has done me a great deal of good. Any one coming to my house who suffers from female troubles or Change of Life, I tell them to take the Pinkham remedies. There are about 30 of us here who think the world of them."—MRS. FLORENCE IRELLA, Box 197, North Haven, Conn.
You are Invited to Write for Free Advice.
No other medicine has been so successful in relieving woman's suffering as has Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Women may receive free and helpful advice by writing the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass. Such letters are received and answered by women only and held in strict confidence.

Raise High Priced Wheat on Fertile Canadian Soil
Canada extends to you a hearty invitation to settle on her FREE Homestead lands of 160 acres each or secure some of the low priced lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. This year wheat is higher but Canadian land just as cheap, so the opportunity is more attractive than ever. Canada wants you to help feed the world by tilling some of her fertile soil—land similar to that which during many years has averaged 20 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre. Think of the money you can make with wheat around \$2 a bushel and land so easy to get. Wonderful yields also of Oats, Barley and Flax. Mixed farming in Western Canada is as profitable an industry as grain growing.
The Government this year is asking farmers to put increased acreage into grain. There is a great demand for farm labor to replace the many young men who have volunteered for service. The climate is beautiful and agreeable, railway facilities excellent, good schools and churches convenient. Write for literature as to reduced railway rates to Supt. of Immigration, Ottawa, Can., or to
J. P. JAFFRAY,
Cor. Walnut & Broad Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.
Canadian Government Agent
OIL! OIL! OIL!
OLD DOMINION OIL COMPANY—a conservative organization, managed skillfully and trustworthily business men—offers the opportunity to share in the immense close to production. Capitalized for a small amount, with no salary expense, no salaries to officers, no office expense, you will be a part of it. You will receive your full share of its profits. This is an honest legitimate proposition, with bright prospects for large gains. Address
J. P. JAFFRAY, Sec'y, 300 Grain Exchange Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Investigation invited.
A Seed Waster.
"There's a man planting potatoes," said Farmer Corntossed, "when he ought to be playin' golf."
"You don't approve of gardening?"
"I do. But if he'd go ahead and plant 'em I wouldn't be spoilin' good potatoes that somebody could use."
Creative forces within the body manifest themselves in Spring. WHOEVER'S IN-FLUENZA PILLS make Nature's way easy, because they are tonic as well as medicine. Adv.
Nature of the Place.
"British forces are fighting now in France."
"I don't wonder they are puttin' much spirit in it."
When refuse to pay their debts they think it would injure their credit.
The Marine Is for Tired Eyes.
"My eyes are sore and itchy," said Mrs. Corntossed, "I've tried all kinds of eye medicine, but nothing does me any good."
"You've got to get the Marine Is for Tired Eyes," said the doctor, "it's the only eye medicine that will cure you."
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