Sermonettes
Little Sermons
FROM A BIG BOOK

Information and Edification
1939
Son of God — Son of Mary

"God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (I. Tim. 3:16.)"
BOOK OF BOOKS

The Bible is the oldest Book extant, free from error and minus a rival. It is called the "Book of Books", 1500 years in making, having about forty writers, all of them Jews, but one. This Book is the result of one mind—God is its Author, man its writer; Moses the first, John the last; living 15 centuries apart—this volume is not subject to copy-right, improvement or appendix. Some of these men were illiterate fishermen—truth is the same, written with a goose quill or a gold pen.

Moses records the origin of man, the means of begetting, the beginning of time, how it is reckoned, the fall of man and cause of the flood. He names Noah as the tenth from Adam, in the line of Christ, cites the tower builders, the beginning of more than one language and why—this was 2,200 B.C. Now, if Darwin was a Prophet, this is all speculation.

If man was evolved, when, where and how did the sex relation develop? We have male and female now—how long have they continued and which was first? Man began as a creation and continues by pro-creation.

Child birth is common; records say, "four babies are born each minute," they all have two parents—how long since they had neither? (Gen. 1:27). No babe minus a mother.

The first man talked to God and God talked to him; he was made to understand and this is how language began. Where did the unborn man or woman learn the parts of speech? Adam and Eve were the first talkers—especially Eve. The race had but one dialect, for 18 centuries the new lingo was a miracle. (Gen. 11:7) other species have their language but cannot understand each other—the dog barks, the pig squeals but there it stops. These facts are self evident but the Bible alone explains them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOK OF BOOKS</th>
<th>SCRIPTURE</th>
<th>THE CHURCH</th>
<th>CHRIST</th>
<th>THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I Cor. 12:14</td>
<td>Mat. 11:29</td>
<td>Mat. 13:23</td>
<td>Rom. 8:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT.</td>
<td>Eph. 2:19</td>
<td>Jno. 10:27</td>
<td>II Tim. 2:8</td>
<td>I Pet. 2:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jno. 10:27</td>
<td>Mat. 25:1</td>
<td>Rev. 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I Pet. 2:5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare these figures of speech; they all teach the same thing—CHRIST and the CHURCH.
BOOK OF BOOKS

This Book embraces 66 Books and is the one Book which makes truth and fact coincide; prophecy states the truth, and history records the fact when fulfilled. God pre-arranges both, a century makes no difference.

Man can't tell the result of an election 24 hours in advance, but the pen of a "ready-writer" detailed the account of the crucifixion 800 years before it was a fact. (Isa. 53) While David recorded the words of Christ on the Cross, 1,000 years before He was born.

This Book is not merely "up to date", but reaches far beyond. When a new generation comes on, it finds the Bible here containing a transcript of where it came from, why it is here, how long it may stay and where is the next stop. (Heb. 9:27), other books don't tell this.

The Scriptures were not written by literary genius, such as Greeks or Romans; God gave this office to His own people (Rom. 3:2). The ancient Jew had no literary taste or talent whatever; they were separated from earthly powers—the Herods and the Caesars—by their religion which made them a "peculiar people" yet the seed of Abraham has given us a Book which is the marvel of the world.

The Bible is not given us as a literary product yet the Philosopher and the Statesman; the King and the Poet consult the Divine testimony for scholarship and culture—while Webster, the Dean of language, cites the Bible in final analysis.

The writers of this Book were not allowed to commend, criticize or eulogize the conduct of another—they were not chosen as critics but pen-men. Why the Bible is called "Book of Books", is because one or more Books finish what another has begun—in this way we get the whole truth and nothing but the TRUTH.

TIME A UNIVERSAL SERVANT

In a circular universe like ours time is first and last in everything. We cannot have time before it comes and when gone we can never get it back; if I have more time than I want I can't give it away and if I want more than I have I can't obtain it at any price.

We contact time at birth, leave it behind at death but have it as a constant companion during our earthly sojourn. Time dims the eye marks the body, enfeebles the step and holds the final inquest in the "garden of tears."

This invisible agent cannot be made, bought sold or analyzed; neither can it be cheated charmed, curbed, condensed or confiscated. Time is neither warm or cold, black or white, wet or dry, yet indispensable.

I must have time to eat and sleep, walk or talk, think or blink, swim or sink. This informal, inconvertible, indestructible and indefinite agency is neither a plan, a place, a person or a project; neither is it any part of a psychological phenomena—what is it?

Time is made and measured by the same process but is never second-hand—we can wind and unwind a spool of thread with the same string but when duration is unrolled by the earth revolving, every moment is something new.

A calendar of time could be of no service in Heaven (Rev. 10:6) Christ was from the beginning but his years here were 33, and no time has been charged to Him since he made his exit tho the world is 1900 years older.

Minus man there could be no mathematical time, no occasion for it, no one to read it and no one to write it down.
HOW TIME WORKS

It is now fifty-nine centuries since creation of Adam who lived 93 decades and begat sons and daughters. This man's life covers the first group of years in the world's history and God selected Moses to write his obituary 1670 years after his death.

Moses lived 1500 years after the death of Adam and 1500 years before the birth of Christ; recorded the death of one and foretold the birth of the other. We are especially interested in the birth of time, birth of Christ and birth of the church. Time began 69 centuries ago. Christ was born 1939 years ago and the church came 33 years later.

There are but two corner-stones from which everything here is dated—the creation of Adam and birth of Christ; deny either and you upset the history of the race and destroy every sacred land-mark since the world began. Every transaction from the discovery of America to the seal of a modern tax receipt tells the number of years since Christ was born; all money; counterfeit, coin or currency carries the date of its age—either B.C. or A.D., while with every tick of the clock some thoughtless soul writes the date of the Christian Era.

God has also given us the science of numbers by which He works and by which man is compelled to work. He declared that 3 and 4 make 7 before man was told to use these types, and there has been no change; your calendar on the wall cites the seven-day week; God wrote the same with His own hand on the Tables of Stone and told man-kind to remember it and why. (Exo. 20:8-11.)

Every year, every day and every-where the social, political and commercial world write A.D. 19—and every News Journal throughout Christendom would be a joke if it failed to tell on the first page how long since the birth of Christ.

GOD'S PURPOSE REVEALED

The first five chapters of Genesis is the seed plot of the Bible and registers the birth of time so far as man and a prepared earth is concerned. Here is cited the origin of all earth life, whether standing, swimming, flying, creeping, walking or talking. Man who was created in the likeness of His Maker is required to believe this; for man only can believe—except the Devil.

In this primitive history the first man and woman are made, named and married; the first law is given and broken, and the first children born; here Satan is introduced, his cunning described and his doom foretold. This part of the Bible cites a case of primitive worship, the first anger and the first death—then is related the birth of Adams third son Seth, and why he was given. (Gen. 4:25).

From the creation of Adam to the birth of Seth is 130 years and marks the first section of time by years in the worlds history—this is followed by the ancestry of Christ down to Noah and the flood; then picks up the son of Noah and continues down the line to Joseph and Mary. This outline shows what was the design, and what was in the mind of God from the beginning—that is, to select a people for Himself thru the work of the second Adam (I Cor. 15:46) "when the fulness of time had come (Gal. 4:4) according to His eternal purpose (Eph. 3:11.)

This prelude is in strict accord with the Divine narrative; the Flood the Decalogue and the birth of Christ. The Sermon on the Mount, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord.
THE MIRACLE MAN

There were seven miracles wrought on the person of Christ; the incarnation, inauguration, transfiguration, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and the coronation. These are seven supernatural testimonies which emphasize the Divinity of our Lord. Christ was not only the champion of miracles but was a miracle himself.

We absorb food, air and sunshine but lose none of our sinful tendencies in so doing. When the Savior partook of flesh and blood, He lost none of his Divine nature—it was Divinity in humanity; bringing human nature into absolute subjection to the Divine. We could have no organized union with Christ until He was stripped of human nature—"the corn of wheat must die or remain alone" (Jno. 12:24). He carried no human nature to Heaven with Him, and when His work with the church is finished, our old nature will be left in the grave, and we shall "be like Him" (I Jno. 3:2). Again, there could be no church organization on earth until the Head in Heaven was united with the Body here.

Christ revealed God's righteousness. (Rom. 1:17) as follows: perfect love, sympathy, innocence, character, knowledge, wisdom and power. He also submitted to a 100 per cent punishment, suffering and obedience at the hand of God which insured a perfect atonement for sin (Isa. 53:10).

In this way the world was permitted to see in the conduct of the Son of God just what God was, and enabled Christ to say; "I have glorified Thee on the earth." (Jno. 17:4) The glory of God and salvation of man are Divinely bound together. "Atonement", gives God a righteous foundation on which to forgive sin.

APOSTLES WORK

The Apostles were the first teachers of the Christian religion, had no written instructions and were not required to study. (Mat. 10:20) God's plan was to give a complete system to begin with and make it the duty of each generation to pass it on to the next. Farther than this, another revelation was never promised and a recorded medium is much better than a verbal, so that the Divine plan is unchanging and changeless. (Rev. 22:18) We can change the clock on the shelf because it might be wrong; not so with the Gospel which was committed unto faithful men who would pass it on to others (2 Tim. 2:2), who would become the custodians of it.

Many things are promised, said and done of the Apostles which could not belong to another disciple ancient or modern. They were the Lord's personal companions for forty-two months. (Luk. 6:13) Christ gave them the Father's words (Jno. 17:14) The world should be converted thru their teaching. (Jno. 17:18) They were the branches of which Christ was the vine. (Jno. 15:15) The world should witness for Christ after His ascension. (Act. 1:8) They were commanded to tarry at Jerusalem (Act. 1:4) They were possessed of miraculous power (Act 3:6) They could transfer this power unto others (Act 8:17) They were the foundation, or charter members in the church (Eph. 2:20) They were commanded to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. (Mkr. 16:15) And to qualify them for this work they were filled with the Holy Ghost (Act 2:4) Hence it was the Holy Spirit in the Apostles that directed sinners how to become disciples and enabled the Apostle Paul to say, "by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body." (I Cor. 12:13)
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Mat. 16:18 — Rom. 16:16)

The Church of Christ began A.D. 33 at the city of Jerusalem as foretold by the ancient prophets; while Christ is the Head, the Founder and the chief Cornerstone. It is a Divine institution, began in the early part of the first century and is the outgrowth of Him from whom the Christian Era was named. It is not a program of Christianity but the Christian program itself; complete and perfect for saving the soul. It was organized, outlined and officered by Divine authority; the Apostles were the charter members while the first converts added, is cited in (Acts. 2:47).

The Church is a system of grace, mercy and pardon; thru a simple, consistent, specific and harmonious program of Divine Justice, wisdom and love. Its success is secured (Mat. 16:18) its purpose affirmed (Eph. 5:27) and its destiny foretold (Heb. 12:23).

The four Gospels are written to create faith in its Author, Lawgiver and Head; they tell of His example, teaching, death, resurrection and ascension. Acts of Apostles inform us morally and legally how to get into Christ; while the 21 epistles were written to the congregations then organized, for the purpose of correcting their errors, commending their virtues and confirming their faith.

These letters were never written as a moral guide for those outside the church; neither written as a rule of conduct for a member of any other society or order of any kind; because the Church of Christ or the Christian System, is the only institution Divinely authorized since the Law of Moses. These letters have their place and purpose in the Divine program, hence we avow, that anything new in religion is not true, and anything true in religion is not new.

RELIGIOUS FACTIONS

False religion partakes of the world, engenders strife; divides the church and dishonors God. It inflames that element of our nature which causes enmity between man and man; it darkens the flame that brightens the fireside and provokes hostility between man and wife.

It scorns the social tie and makes enemies of those who would otherwise be choice companions.

Religious factions separate by human contrivance those who have the kindest regards for each-other and forbid them doing what nature designed them to do; what they want to do and what Revelation teaches them they should do—Namely; love thy neighbor as thyself.

Opposing factions give rise to artificial life and tell us to be silent when we want to be glad and rejoice; they obstruct the stream of nature which would flow freely from heart to heart and makes it almost impossible at times to associate at pleasure with our other-wise nearest friends.

God has sown far and wide, and covered deeply, the seeds of human affection. He has given us a text book and a Teacher, also a system of training and treatment, which is well pleasing to Him. This includes all that is helpful, excludes all that is harmful and precludes the possibility of religious enemies to harass the life, quench the spirit and dwarf the soul.

The Gospel does not fluctuate—it is stable. If the clock runs too fast or too slow, we change the clock and not the sun. God made the sun; man made the clock.
ADAM AND EVE

The temptation of Adam and Eve differed; Eve was deceived, Adam was not; both were guilty—it was sin in either case, a violation of Divine law that drove them from the presence of God. Disobedience may result from either deception or wilful violation and both be wrong.

Satan displayed skill in his first official act; he corrupts the heart then offers the things of the world by which to draw it away; no wonder he gets results—like the farmer, he first prepares the soil, then sows the seed.

Christ had no defective nature, hence the seeds of sin found no lodgment there—Satan could not move him. Make the tree good and the fruit will follow. (Mat. 12:33) A pure heart is not inclined to evil but a corrupt heart is. Deceit is Satan's most effective weapon and the man who is deceitful is afraid of being deceived.

The regenerate heart is born of Him who was never degenerate—that is, Christ. (Jno. 1:13)

In the Lord's temptation Satan's appeal had no effect because the Divine nature had no attraction—he was intact and Satan left him (Mat. 4:11) You can't strike a match where there is no friction—resist the Devil and he will flee (Jas. 4:7)

The first Adam placed a mortgage on the human family; the second Adam—Christ, has paid it off and we are released on easy terms.

Adam was the first man; he was a figure of Christ who was to come (Rom. 5:14) God made the figure 4000 years before he gave us the real Man. (Gal. 4:4)

WALKING WITH GOD

To walk with the Lord is doing his will. Noah walked with God in building the ark and Abraham walked with God in going to Canaan, yet some of their steps in life, were uncertain—too long; too short, not enough or too many. Our example is the perfect man Christ Jesus. (1 Jno. 2:6) passive or active He was always correct; never too late but always on time.

We should stand or move as the Lord directs—silence is golden when the heart storms; there is no fragrance till the flower blooms and a good actor knows when to be silent or spoil the play—"swift to hear, slow to speak", is the right attitude. (Jas. 1:19). David took Uriah's wife, Lot moved to Sodom and Esau sold his birth-right—all were losers.

A Christian often stands when he should be moving and moves when he should be waiting. The Hebrew's wait at the Red Sea for the Lord to act; Jushua stood still at Jericho for the green light and the Israelites tarried for the cloud, before moving. (Num. 9:22).

Jesus waited 30 years without baptism (Luk. 3:23) 40 days minus food. (Luk. 4:2) and 48 hours before raising Lazarus. (Jno. 11:39) We wait until sure we are right then move at once. (2 Cor. 6:2).

Man can't move until he hears and knows the Gospel—then move while the green light is on, this is striving lawfully. (2 Tim. 2:5); this is walking in the light. (1 Jno. 1:7). A clock too slow or too fast is a nuisance—not reliable; look at the Regulator. (Heb, 13:8) He is right. Belshazzar was too fast—he was WEIGHED and WANTING. The armless hand and the ink-less pen wrote his doom on his palace wall. (Dan. 5:30). 
CHRISTIANITY

Conversion, regeneration and “born-again”, (Jno. 3:3) mean the same thing. Man is a degenerate being and must be renewed before fit for Divine service. This comes from Him who was never degenerate—that is Christ.

We are “born-again”, by Faith in Christ. (Act 16:31) Repentance toward Christ (Act 20:21). Confessing name of Christ (Rom. 10:10) Baptized into Christ. (Col. 3:27). This makes a servant of Christ (Col. 4:12) makes him a Christian and calls for activity (I Cor. 15:58) as follows:


This needs no comment.

WHEN GOD DECLARES WAR

When cities and Empires become extremely wicked Jehovah Himself declares war.

The ancient cities of Babylon, Sodom and Nineveh staggered at the hand of God and finally fell; where Sodom once planted her graceful feet in ancient pride and voluptuous splendor now repose the lifeless waters of the Dead Sea—silent, somber and sullen; this bottomless pit swallows the waters of the Jordan and is never full.

The basin of this Sea was once the site of a prosperous city where the lads and lassie’s made merry, the mill-wheel turned and the fair young mother sang a soothing lullaby to her first-born.

It was the Divine penman who wrote Belshazzar’s obituary before his death, on the wall of his own palace, in the presence of his best friends, commissioned a Hebrew captive to unlock the mystery and ordered the king’s execution the same night.

It was the invisible God who declared war against Jerusalem nineteen centuries ago; led Titus to the Judean capital; laid waste the wicked metropolis and cast a cloud of gloom and melancholy over the fatigued, forlorn and forsaken populace. He lighted the torch, sharpened the sword and stirred the satanic spirit until the friendless, hopeless mass struggled with each other in the face of death; neither did he halt until the devoted city was in ruins; 1,100,000 had fallen in battle while multitudes of her fainting and famishing subjects secured for themselves coffins and hailed with gladness the approach of the silent rider on the pale horse (Rev. 6:8).
HOW CONVERTED

Christ purchased the Church and it is His (Act 20:28) He is Head over all things to the Church (Eph. 1:22) and we are told to give Him glory in the Church (Eph. 3:21) also, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17) and by one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body (1 Cor. 12:13)

How are we converted? Peter was given the keys of the Kingdom; that he might unlock the way in (Mat. 16:19) and the first meeting redeemed 3,000 souls (Act 2:38-41) A man whose name was Saul, was told to be "baptized and wash away his sins". (Act 22:16)—he did so.

A woman named Lydia was baptized in a river near Philippi; her name, her business and her address are all recorded (Act 16:14) A man from Ethiopia was baptized on his way home from Jerusalem (Act 8:38) he was a man of note but he exercised wisdom also (Luk. 7:30) A jailor at Philippi was converted one night just after an earthquake had hit the jail; it was dark but he did not wait for daylight to be baptized (Act 16:33)

A soldier whose name was Cornelius, a devout man, a godly man, a praying man, but not a Christian; he was told to send men to town for a man by the name of Peter and the precise place where he would be found and what the man's business was—Peter was told that he was wanted at Cesarea—he started the next morning reached the man's house, found an audience, preached a sermon and commanded them to be baptized. (Act 10:48)—Acts, is the book of conversions—all were converted alike. God is no respecter of persons (Act 10:34).

HOW TIME IS MEASURED

The seven day week is the first time-table extant and we have the same group of days passed on to us after 59 centuries—this is remarkable indeed. Every home and office have their seven day calendar.

It is a stated period of 4000 years from Adam to Christ; it is now 1939 years since His Nativity, making 5939 years since Creation—the length of duration is found by adding the age of each ancestor of Christ to the date of his first-born son—these periods are all computed, compared and compiled by inspiration—there is no missing link; hence man is the same physically, at both ends of the line.

These two beginnings; counting from the man made from dust (Gen. 2:7) and the man made from a woman, (Gal. 4:4) we have the two ages, B.C. and A.D. If these monumental markings are incorrect then Eden is a myth, Bethlehem a mirage, Adam a joke, Christ a fraud, life a dream and death a phantom. These memorials were not fixed by courts, kings or statesmen; but by world events, unchanging and changeless; and are of universal application. They are known by what they stand for wherever the Bible is honored.

Destroy the third verse of the fifth chapter of Genesis and no genius can compute the age of man. This 130 years from Adam to Seth is the base of years by which we figure the Divine calendar.

B.C. and A.D. signifies dating from Christ, each way. All Bible events are measured from the Divine Child; God's business with the world pointed to Him before born and He adjusted every-thing to the same event after His birth—God had his own outline before he revealed it. As God and man unite in Christ; likewise the two EPOCHS.
SOWING AND REAPING

Sowing and reaping are well known laws in nature; the same is just as true in morals—good and bad are sown and garnered everywhere. In nature the harvest soon arrives, but in human events it is often detained—this emboldens the lawless. (Ecc. 8:11) Yet the seed will grow, the crop ripen and the reaper come.

The first pair ignored God, sowed to Satan, lost their home and sealed their race for death (Rom. 5:12). The flood swallowed millions because of their sowing; Sodom was aglow with voluptuous splendor; they laughed while the crop was growing but mourned when the sickle was thrust in (Gen. 19:24).

Jezabel was queen; she might wear a crown, take a man's life, paint her face and play the harlot, but this could not stop the harvest. (2 Kings 9:30). David took a man's wife and killed her husband, but he could not hide the deed, change the wind or run away from the harvest. (2 Sam. 12:10). Absalom planned his brothers death and tried to wrest the scepter from his father David, but he could not conquer fate, out-general the Lord or escape his execution. (2 Sam. 18:14).

Belshazzar reigned in a city of splendor—he made a banquet for his lords; everything is dazzling and everybody happy; but the reaper has come and calls to the harvest; the armless hand and the inkless pen write the king's doom on the wall of his own palace, in the presence of his best friends—"weighed and found wanting"; that night was Belshazzar slain (Dan. 5:30).

Action and reaction are always busy—BEWARE.

THE OLD AND NEW

A good watch will keep good time if each wheel is left in place; but jumble the wheels and it won't run. The Bible must be treated the same way—no jumbling.

The Old and New Testaments are related but not connected as to results. Salvation is revealed in the New but not in the Old. We are saved by the Gospel yet it has its parts—history of Christ, work of Apostles and starting the church: also, conduct of saint and duty of sinner.

In the Old Testament we trace the lineage of Christ from Adam to Mary, then retrace the same in the New Testament from husband of Mary back to Adam the Son of God. (Luk. 3:23) We thus engage the mental journey from Eden to Bethlehem—then return over the same route; here we learn that the royal Son of the house of David was the veiled Prophet of the Old and the Son of God in the New Testament. The four first writers of the New Testament pass briefly over the first 30 years of Jesus' life after citing his birth. Beginning with his baptism they note His official life of 42 months and recite the 33,422 recorded words that He spoke; His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension are noted along with His select number left to administer His will. (Heb. 9:17).

The Book of Acts relates the work of Apostles in executing the Lord's will after His ascension. They were required to tarry at Jerusalem until Divinely qualified for this work. (Luk. 24:49).

The second chapter of Acts relates the first preaching of the Gospel in fact how the Apostles connected salvation with the terms of the will and what followed. (Act 2:41). This book tells all we know and all we need know, as to an alien becoming a Christian but in order to restore a "back-slider" we study the Epistles to the Church.
MEDITATION

Picture a babe in his mother's arms; a dimple in his chin, a smile on his lips and sunshine in his heart. See him later as he toddles from place to place; again on his way to school; then as he graduates and takes his place in the business world.

He marries, rears a family and becomes active in domestic, social and civil life; decades pass and age comes on; the morning of youth gives way to the passing of time, while the vigor of young manhood is wrapped in the mantle of declining years—life makes way for death amidst the clamor of a busy world. The crepe on the door, the hearse on the way, the silence at the grave, the little mound, the marble slab, and the life is written.

The babe, the child, the youth, the man, the father and the aged; form the same historic chain of helpless babyhood, innocent childhood, wavering boyhood, polished manhood, anxious fatherhood and sedate old-age.

Domestic and social life are a part of the fireside. Jesus is the silent guest in every Christian home—when the wife prays behind the closed door He is near; when the mother pleads for the sick child He is standing by and when the widow calls for help she is not forgotten.

During the silent hours of the night, when sleep has gone and we are wide awake to the tick of the clock and the murmur of the wind, this invisible FRIEND is ready to act. Far yet near; absent yet present; silent yet speaks; invisible yet rules; there is no separation. (Rom. 8:38-39.)

STEWARDSHIP

A steward is one in charge of another man's property—he is a servant or a trusty; his own reward is the result of faithful service (Luk 16:12) The property in his custody is to enrich the owner and not to buy favors for himself.

Christians are the Lord's stewards; He supplies the things of nature and allows us to manipulate them for His profit and pay our expenses in the meantime. Our talents are His also, and he holds us responsible for their use; servants must answer to the Master (Rom. 14:4)

Nature does not get out of repair; hence no expense on our part in keeping it up—the atmosphere, the sunshine and the rainfall, are all in the hands of the owner; we need not fret about these—they are created and not made.

In all this, God holds before us the principle of grace or goodness by which He acts and by which He invites us to act. A willing heart is the best service, because of its intrinsic value or worth and we are given neither example nor precept in the N. T. for "price fixing" in religious service.

Paul refused to fix a price on his preaching and tells why (I Cor. 9:17-18) it is always giving, not charging; "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 11:9) "The inspired teachers taught the disciples to help each other by giving, but fixed no price; neither requested anything for themselves.

The following has in mind the Lord's steward or servant. The soldier is paid for going to war; the man with the flock, drinks of the milk; the man of the vineyard partakes of the fruit and the ox that labors should not be muzzled (I Cor. 9:6-20)
DOMESTIC FELICITY

“It is not good that the man should be alone.” (Gen. 2:8) “Association is necessary—it requires two or more to make a home; wedlock presumes, “two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one”—this is unity.

The sex differ in human tendency; man is a product of unrefined nature; rude, clumsy, profane, etc.; the woman, a “later model”; refined, reserved, delicate and gentle in behavior. Each admires in the other what they lack in self. The Lord took the best in Adam to make the woman—sometimes called, “the better half”. In wedlock the man wants back what he lost in the woman while the fair sex, seeks to obtain what she never had.

Why does the man sacrifice, toil and struggle to obtain wealth, if not to share it with another and lay the object of his ambition at the feet of a loved and loving companion? Why does the happy wife gladly give her time and talents; suffer and serve, plan and plot, but to brighten the home, warm the heart and seal the fond affections of her affinity?

“Increase and multiply” is Divine, and minus this, the voice of fruitful nature will be neither satisfied or silent. Home is where the first words are spoken, the first thoughts cradled, the first lessons learned; here is the joy of youth, the strength of manhood and the comfort of declining years.

The brightest flowers bud and blossom in the family garden, the sweetest incense rises from family altar and here the rarest jewels sparkle in the sunlight that gilds and gladdens its gateway.

A model home is where the clock tick and murmur of the wind are fraught with music; where sunshine scatters the clouds and love unfettered, holds universal sway.

THE MOTHER HEART

Looking from a tiny frame upon the wall, gazing intently at me, and like a guardian angel over me, is the priceless image of my departed mother. 4 and 40 years have been written in the book of time since she smoothed my locks, caressed my cheek and said “good-by” to the world of sorrows.

After the death scene was over, the death silence ended and the death angel gone; they dressed the form of my best earthly friend in a spotless robe, laid it in the ruthless bier, then transferred it in silence to the garden of tears. Even now while looking thru the windows of that vacant cottage I find memory turning backward and picking up the tangled threads of a youthful life.

Age, experience and observation, teach me now as never before, the weighty office of an active pious and devoted mother. A mother’s love is not the fickle, fleeting, fancy of a youthful dream, but a profound, fixed and fascinating passion; she may be taxed with poverty, clothed with rags and living in a hovel, yet the love of the mother heart is fixed and changeless.

Mother is the arch-angel of the weak and wayward child; tho brutal and debased, hated and despised, forsaken and condemned, there remains that deathless affinity; tho the whole world forsake the child, yet there is one tribunal who denies the charge, rejects the testimony and moves for a new trial.

When a man is cast into prison his letters depend on who is left behind: a wife or a sweetheart may write for a time, but when mothers letters come no more, the prisoner knows the hand that penned them, the lips that kissed them, the mind that formed them and the heart that warmed them are sealed and silent.
THE CHAIN OF LIFE

The infant man can neither stand, walk, talk or turn-over; he cannot think, reason, reflect or regret; yet wrapped in this helpless bundle of clay is an undeveloped germ, sufficient to build a castle or rule an Empire.

Child-hood is but once in a life-time. Trouble goes with the wind; cares flee while the dew is on; tears and laughter chase each-other along the path-way of life's young dream.

Boy-hood brings adolescence; the day before legal age; the time when every boy wants to ride behind the wheel—unbridled; unruly; indiscretion; drive slow and watch the green light. Man-hood. business and marriage; domestic social and civil life; a challenge to character; education; wisdom and respectibility; to climb the invisible ladder a pure heart and clean hands.

Father-hood: the day of anxiety; heart and home are in the balance; grief and gladness; clouds and sun-shine mix and mingle with human events; to-day we drink from the cup of gladness, tomorrow is charged with the storms of life.

Declining-years: reverie and repose; meditation and retrospection; slowing-down and looking west-ward; walking in the evening shadows; waiting for the boat-man from the other shore.

Setting-sun; nearing the border land; life's book is sealed but time goes on; going thru the valley; the vail is lifted; eyes are opened—eternity begins.

When my friends and kindred are called together for the last time, and I am the principal object in that frightful and frequent tragedy called "death"; I would prefer a casket without a flower, a funeral without eulogy and a grave without tears, rather than be deprived of that Christian hope which alone can charm, careess and cheer, my other-wise poor and broken spirit, quitting its cottage of clay.