How Shall a Sinner Get Right With God?

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TEXT—"How can a man be just with God?" Job 9:2.

Centuries ago Job asked the question, "How can a man be just with God?" In all ages the moral sense of mankind has been raising the same question. Many answers have been given:

I. The heathen answered it in this way: "Make an offering to the gods sufficient to compensate for the wrong done." Hence they brought presents of fruit and flowers, gold and silver, and sometimes they even offered their own children as a sacrifice to the gods. They were always looking for some way of pleasing God without right living. The heathen method is still a favorite one even in Christian lands. Many a man serves the devil all his life, and then builds a library or endows a hospital to atone for his sins.

II. Others say that the way for a sinner to get right with God is to keep the commandments. Three things are to be said about this method:

(a) Keeping the law does not atone for past sins. If one were to obey God's law perfectly from this time on, that would not atone for the sins of the past.

(b) The law never was designed to save men from sin, but only to show them that they are sinners. When Mr. Moody's boys were young he said to one of them, "I am going down to the field, and when I return, if you will have on a clean dress, and if your face is clean, I will take you out for a ride." The little fellow ran to his mother at once and had his face washed and his clothes changed. Before his father returned however, his face and dress were soiled again. When his father arrived the boy claimed the promised ride, but his father said, "Ah, my boy, I promised you a ride on condition that your face and dress were clean, but they are not." "Oh, yes," said the boy. "They must be clean, for mamma put on a fresh dress and scrubbed my face with soap and water." As the boy insisted, the father took him in his arms, and carrying him into the house, held him up before the mirror, and let him look at himself. He used the mirror to show the boy that his face was not clean, but he did not use the mirror to wash his face, did he? No, he used water for that. Now the Decalogue is simply God's mirror to show man that he is a sinner, but there is no power in the law to save a man from sin. It requires grace to do that.

(c) No one ever kept the law of God perfectly except the Lord Jesus Christ, for "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." This method of getting right with God is an utter failure.

III. Paul's answer to the question is this; justification through faith in Christ. "We believed on Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law: because by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal. 2: 16).

Since man has broken away from God by sin, it is evident that if any reconciliation is made, the overture must come from God, since man has nothing to offer.

When God told Abraham to take his only son Isaac, and offer him as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah, the aged patriarch obeyed instantly. He even arose "early in the morning," and set out on his sad journey. When they had reached the appointed place, Isaac said to his father, "Behold the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham answered, "My son, God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering," and God did.

So in all the ages the moral sense of mankind has been searching the universe for some adequate atonement for sin. The best they could find did not satisfy their own sense of justice. The position of the heathen world without the Bible is this, "Lord, this is the best we can find. It is not suitable nor sufficient we know, but what can we do? Behold the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Revelation answers, "God will provide himself the lamb for the offering," and he has, even the lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

This then is the scripture method of getting right with God—justification through faith in Jesus Christ.

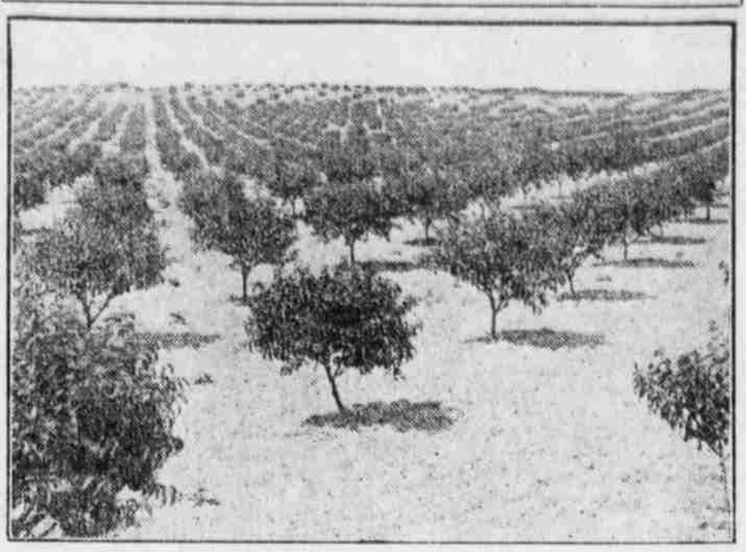
Three things are to be remembered:

By the death of Christ we are delivered from the guilt of sin.

By the life of Christ in us we are delivered from the power of sin.

By the coming of Christ we shall be delivered from the presence of sin

SOME EXCELLENT ORCHARD SUGGESTIONS



A Michigan Peach Orchard.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

Forgot to rake and burn all the dead leaves and litter in the orchard last fall? Well, better do it now—not next month.

Trees require food as well as plants do. They get this food in solution only and it is necessary to keep the ground moist. Cultivation helps to do that.

The apple maggot is no kin to the codling moth, but is equally destructive, as he eats through the fruit in all directions, while the larvae of the moth confines its eating principally to the core.

Tobacco dust is death to the woolly aphis. Tobacco good enough for the pest can be raised on almost any farm.

When you prune apple and pear trees, go slow. Better take two or three years to get a neglected orchard in shape than to do it all at once. Heavy pruning brings too many water sprouts on apple trees.

Cherry trees should be pruned rather lightly. By proper pruning at the start, you can have a low, bushy head and a good root growth.

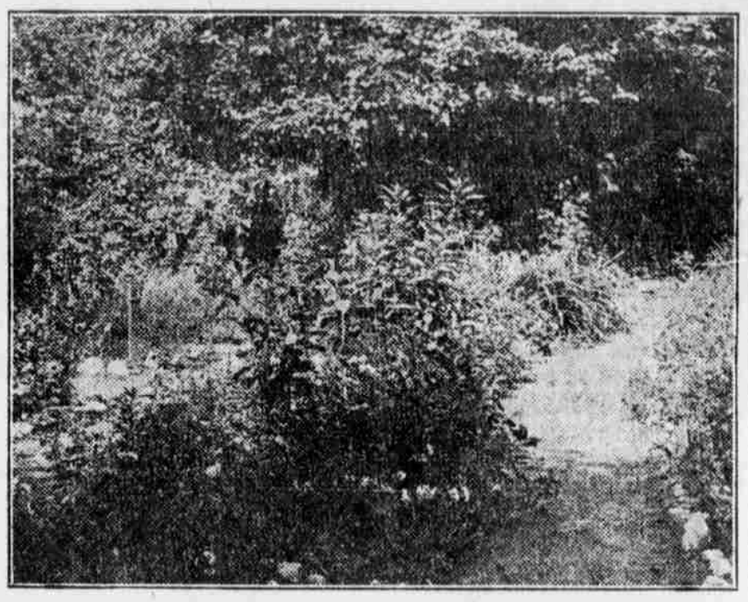
If the orchard was cultivated as carefully as the corn crop the yield of fruit would be a pleasant surprise to most of us.

The nature and habits of the strawberry require that tillage be continuous through the season. Down in the crown of the plant are being perfected fruit buds, which are large or small, strong or weak, as the conditions for their development are favorable or unfavorable.

The bacteria which works upon the elements of plant food in the soil, converting them from an insoluble to a soluble form, play a most important part in plant life. Soil aeration is one of the things required by these bacteria and this condition in the soil is secured by continuous cultivation.

Two busy women can fatten up their bank account materially from a half-acre of strawberries. Back-aching work, of course, but the sunshine is a cure for a great many ills—and is cheaper than medicine.

SWEET ALYSSUM IS PRETTY EDGING PLANT



Wallclad Pergola.

(By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.)

Sweet-Alyssum is one of the easiest of all flowering plants to grow, and a bed of it should be on every home ground, since its value lasts, without extra care, from the time it begins to bloom in the summer until it is killed by the frosts of autumn.

The plant is white-flowered, very fragrant, hardy, and low-growing in habit. It seldom attains a height of more than one foot, and the average height is from five to eight inches.

It thrives best in good garden loam of moderate fertility, but it will grow and give much satisfaction in almost any soil.

Sweet-Alyssum plants begin to bloom when they are two or three inches high and they continue to branch and bloom all through the season, a single plant making a mat of branches ofter nearly two feet across.

To produce the large-sized plants they should be thinned to stand not closer than six or eight inches apart. For immediate effects they should be allowed to stand close together in a bed.

From the small size of the plants and the pure white of the numerous blossoms, sweet-alyssum makes a splendid edging plant with a variety of other flowers.

But for unity of charm, both of color and the most delicious fragrance, an individual bed of the plants three or four feet wide, extending the full length or width of the garden will give the highest satisfaction.

Before frost in the fall the plants may be cut back, lifted, potted, and they will bloom in the window all winter.

Better results, however, with sweet-alyssum for window culture is to start the plants in seed boxes, in the late summer or early fall.

CARING FOR THE BLOOMING ROSES

Flowers Should be Cut Early in Morning and Placed in Receptacle of Water.

(By JULIE GORDON.)

When cutting rosebuds, cut back to a strong leaf-bud and another rose will reward you. Use a good, sharp knife, and give a clean, slanting cut.

While you are about it—cutting roses—bear in mind the future shoot; that is, so it may add to the beauty and symmetry of the bush.

Cut roses early in the morning and place them in a deep receptacle full of water until you are ready to form bouquets or use them for decoration.

If you want them to last long, keep them out of the sunshine and out of draughts. Cut off the stems every morning and add salt to the water, which must be changed daily.

Never ship or send roses long distances just after they are gathered. Keep them several hours in deep water, so as to allow them to absorb as much water as possible.

INJURY WROUGHT BY BOX TURTLES

Little Insect Destroyers Have Great Fondness for the Juicy Tomatoes.

(By FRANCIS L. RISLEY.)

Gardeners and most farmers have friendly feelings towards this shy little reptile, so much so that they give them the freedom of their gardens as insect destroyers. But if one watches the ripest tomatoes he will often find queer-shaped holes or bites in them. It's without doubt the night work of a turtle—as they have great fondness for the juicy tomato, and when the turtle attacks such it leaves a "bite mark" that tells the story. It's best to have tomatoes grow as high up as possible, leaving no chance for he turtle to reach them—but the height a turtle can stretch is astonishing.

Plant Like a Child.

A plant is exactly like a child. It must be fed, dressed and cared for; its wants supplied and its idiosyncrasies humored.

HIGHWAY IMROVEMENT

COUNTRY ROADS OF CONCRETE

Lasting Materials for Construction Available in Many Places in Form of Sand and Gravel.

No single factor plays such an important part in the social and business life of a community as the quality of its roads. Aside from the pleasure and convenience of travel, possible at all times over permanent roads, there is the financial phase which directly concerns the cost not only of farm produce, but of city products as well. Consequently everybody wants good roads, writes P. H. Wilson in the Iowa Homestead. In the matter of paying for permanent highways, a generally satisfactory agreement seems to have been reached in the proposed distribution of the cost between the nation, the state, the county and the users of the road in question. As a result, within a few years this country will take its rightful leading position among the nations of the world in the number of miles of permanent roads.

In a way it is fortunate that the United States has been rather slow in the matter of road making. The roads can now be built of lasting materials, such as will withstand the wear of motor traffic which is fast ruining Europe's century-old roadways. Lasting road materials are everywhere present in the form of sand and gravel from pits and stream beds and crushed rock from stone quarries. Combined with Portland cement into concrete, they form an inexpensive and permanent road surface which successfully resists the usually destructive action of automobiles.

The first consideration in the building of concrete roads is a careful study of local deposits of sand, gravel and rock (called the aggregate) to see whether they are suitable for concrete. Sand must be clean and hard and must grade uniformly in size of grain from one-fourth inch down. The same applies to gravel and crushed rock except that the largest particles commonly allowable are one and one-fourth inches in diameter. If local materials are usable, a considerable saving will be effected, as only cement will need to be freighted.

It is much faster and cheaper to mix the concrete with a machine than by hand. Depending on the grading of the aggregate, the concrete is usually proportioned one bag of Portland cement to two cubic feet of sand and four cubic of screened gravel or crushed rock, or one of cement to two of sand and three of gravel or rock. During the grading and draining of the road, the aggregate is hauled and piled at convenient points. The concrete is mixed mushy wet, is deposited to the thickness of six inches upon the firm old road bed and is brought to grade and shape by means of a templet. In order to shed the water on the side drains the surface of the concrete is given a rise or crown in the center of one one-hundredth to one seventy-fifth the width of the roadway. The surface is finished with a wooden float and wire broom, by which means there is afforded perfect footing for horses. At intervals of 25 feet the road is divided into sections by narrow contraction joints extending crosswise the road and entirely through the concrete. These joints are formed by means of a thin metal or wooden cross form or divided to which is tied a single or double thickness of tar paper with the paper face against the last laid section of roadway. After the surface of this section is finished and while the concrete for the adjoining section is being placed, the cord holding the paper to the cross form is cut and the cross form is removed. The tar paper adheres to the concrete and stays in the joint, which is reduced to the thickness of the paper by forcing against it the freshly placed concrete of the section under construction.

When the surface of the concrete has hardened enough to prevent pitting it is sprinkled with clean water and is kept moist for several days. Likewise, as soon as possible, the pavement is covered temporarily with two inches of sand or dirt from the side road to give further air in curing the concrete. Traffic is confined to the earthen side roads until the concrete is about two weeks old. In the meantime shoulders of broken stone or gravel are built along both edges of the pavement. These are made three feet wide and sufficiently thick to be firm and to make it an easy matter at all times for wagon wheels to pass from the side road onto the pavement.

Think of Improvement.

It might be well to think how a road might be improved, instead of storming about the overseer, when traveling over a bad road.

Care of Poultry.

Beginners in the poultry business are likely to neglect their stock during the time they are not yielding returns and often fail to figure the future consequences. Such beginners cannot be successful in the poultry business. Constant care, good feeding and fresh water are absolutely necessary at all times. This holds good from the time the chicks are hatched until they go into the laying-house.

LOSS OF CANAL WATER

Too Steep Grades Are Sometimes Responsible for Leaks.

When Ditches Are Built Through Gravelly Soils Seepage Losses Are Naturally Heavy Unless Measures Are Taken to Prevent.

There is not an irrigating canal in this country from which there is not more or less loss of water in transit. These losses are generally spoken of as caused by seepage and evaporation. However, it has been demonstrated that the evaporation losses as compared to those caused by seepage are so light that they may be disregarded. The loss by seepage unusually occurs from the character of the soil through which the canals run, says the Denver Field and Farm. When this is a finely divided sandy loam such as occurs in many places the losses from this cause are generally light, but when the canals are built through soils which are very gravelly or perhaps nearly pure gravel the seepage losses are naturally very heavy unless strenuous measures are adopted to prevent them.

In other places much water is lost along parts of the canals where the excavation has been through seamy basaltic rock or decomposed sandstone. Too steep grades sometimes are responsible for much seepage. This condition is found on some of the smaller early ditches built through gravelly soil. We have heard it argued that when the water is to be conducted through gravel or a porous formation it should go fast, but in canals built on this theory the velocities are such as to prevent silting of the channels and thus actually promote seepage. In the construction of canals many fills are made across short gullies or depressions, where to follow the contour of the land would necessitate wide detours; and frequently the upper banks are either omitted or destroyed which allows the water to spread out over the land above the canal and form lakes.

In cases where the fills are of considerable height quite large areas of land are sometimes flooded and below such lakes are invariably found heavy seepage losses, large enough often to run in small streams away from the canal. To prevent these losses the upper banks of the canals have been built up so as to prevent the formation of the lakes. On the canals where the difficulty is due to gravelly soil it has been the practice to some extent to excavate a foot or so below grade and then fill in with clay or fine material, so as to form a puddle. The clay is tamped in the bottom, and then the bottom and sides are plastered several inches thick with a mortar formed of the clay in plastic state. This is then covered with a layer of gravel to prevent washing.

The results of this work are quite satisfactory, but it is difficult to find suitable clay for the purpose and cement has to be used which is more expensive but considerably more durable. Some measurements have been made on our canals to learn the extent of seepage, but on the smaller ditches it is almost impossible to get any reliable results on account of the numerous diversions which there is no satisfactory means of measuring; and if these are shut off along a stretch two or three miles long, the extra water will cause such a rise in the canal below as to be dangerous. The loss often amounts to fifty per cent. and this is more than any business can stand.

Protection of Crops.

The one question above all others over which the farmer, fruit grower, and gardener should show concern is the protection of his crops from the attacks of insect pests and fungus diseases. It is estimated that over one-sixth of the year's crops of the country are destroyed through the depredations of plant diseases. It stands the farmer well in hand to protect his crops from the liability of injury by practicing spraying at the right time or the treating of farm seed before planting.

GENERAL FARM NOTES

Loosening the subsoil allows the rains to soak in.

Planting in straight rows is better than planting in raised beds.

Good seed corn is one of the most important factors in producing a good yield.

No man can tell whether corn will grow or not, without making a germination test.

Planting only such vegetables as are liked by the family is better than planting a great variety.

To kill Canada thistles in a field, put the field in some cultivated crop and keep the weeds down.

It does not pay to devote high-priced land for long periods to pasture and the production of hay.

Eleven pounds of alfalfa is worth as much in feeding value as ten pounds of bran, and it costs but half as much.

Breaking ground in winter makes the ground more loose and mellow than spring breaking. It also destroys insect larvae.

Pasturing grass too soon or too hard is an expensive way of saving feed; it costs several times the amount of feed saved.

No Chance for an Argument.

"Waiter, how do I know that isn't horse meat instead of beef?"

"You probably don't, sir; all kinds of people come here to eat."

Good Magnet.

Helper—We're going to have a big crowd here, and it'll be some job to keep 'em moving.

Manager—That'll be easy. Take down the rear exit sign, post up the word "Free," and they'll all bolt for it. —Judge.

It Would Seem So.

"What do you consider the most important even in the history of Paris?" asked the obsequious landlord of the American tourist. "Well," replied the tourist, who had grown weary of distributing tips, "so far as financial prosperity is concerned, I should say the discovery of America was the making of this town."

Unique Suicide.

A safe was used by a man named Jacob Rabinowitz, fifty-four years old, of Philadelphia, Penn., to commit suicide, a few days ago. Frst he jacked up an 800 pound safe with a block of wood. Placing his head beneath it he drew a strap as tightly as he could around his neck. Then he knocked the block from under the safe and the heavy weight fell upon his head. He was found by his wife, but died before a physician arrived. He had been despondent for several weeks because he lost a lawsuit.

Broken Heart Caused Death.

A broken heart, caused by violent beating due to sudden emotion, was said by a doctor to be responsible for the death of Alexander Burness, sixty-four, a master tailor, at a London inquest. Burness fell and died during an altercation with a foreman cutter as to the ownership of certain articles which he was about to remove from his former premises to new ones.