PULPIT ECHOES

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JESUS CHRIST gives to our world a moral and ethical standard which, if followed, would make this earth a paradise. This gives us a consistent philosophy of life which explains harmoniously the universe and our part in it. He gives us a vital hope for the future and beyond death, without which life is purposeless. But, *only those who believe in him can utilize these blessings!*

Why should we always run to see what some one else has said, or thought, or done, before venturing to act for ourselves ? There is an easy way and there is a hard. The easy way is to cater to public opinion and do the expected thing. But this is not the Christian way. The true Christian must often swim against the stream of public sentiment, ignoring custom and precedent, in order to follow the higher standard of God's will. Not conformists, but dissenters, are the world's leaders.

You could make a string of ciphers reaching round the world, but in themselves they would have no value. But place a "1" before them, and each cipher in the series at once assumes great value. Thus it is God who gives to man his value, for man is a row of ciphers, standing for nothing, regardless of number. But with God at their head, men assume infinite value.

"Comfort ye my people," was the word of God to His Prophet Isaiah. And sooner or later, every one of us faces the supreme crisis of life in which there comes home to us the realization that God's comfort is the only comfort. How this old world needs it today! Yet in spite of the injustice and loss, the pain and suffering, the weeping and dying everywhere around us, there is a recourse. God's ancient promise still stands, and He will yet judge the world in righteousness, overthrow the oppressor, lift up the fallen, and wipe away all our tears!

Christian people should have Christian homes. For nowhere is the follower of Jesus more severely tested or more clearly revealed than in his home, where the veneer of convention is stripped off, and he is truly himself. The home that is truly Christian will be a place where Christ reigns supreme, a haven from the storms of life, a sanctuary of peace and love, a laboratory in which the principles of Christ are daily demonstrated. The Christian home will have a family altar and daily worship. It will have regular and purposeful Bible study. Its children will be trained in the Christian way of life, and every relation between the members of that home will be dominated by love and sympathetic understanding. Is it too much to suppose that Jesus might ask us to meet this interpretation of Matthew 7.20: "Wherefore by their *homes* ye shall know them"?