

The command is "though your sins be as scarlet," the promise is "They shall be as white as snow."

The simplicity of the cure. It was a simple thing. In Leviticus 14:8, we discover that the number 7 is a sacred number, that on the 7th day God rested from his work, that on the seventh day, Israel was to let the land rest, etc.

v. 11-12 The natural man's judgment of salvation.

Here is the proud eye. "I". I thought God would save me this way, that surely the prophet would come out and say some magic words, or perhaps (lay his hands) upon me. Preconception Sinners do not like the gospel plan. Had it ALL figured out

Some of you say, when the time comes for me to be saved,-- I'll be saved. You think to be hit like a bolt of lightning on a street, or in a field, or with a vision, but you will wait till the judgment day and still be lost.

v. 12 - Prejudice - Water - But God SAID The JORDAN.

(Williams Burns), a preacher, told the story how that on one occasion he was called to go to the home of a sinful man, to pray for his wife who was ill. This man operated a sinful business, and on the way over to the home, he told the preacher that he was going to give up this business after the lease ended, and after he had paid a few bills, and to each remark Mr. Burns replied, "There are no terms with God." He prayed with the woman, and while praying he heard a noise which came from outside. The man was wrecking the signs, and said that he was turning to the Lord. What are you going to do about the future. You must come to God's terms.

v. 13 The good servant.

"Naaman, you don't have any other way out," I can hear the servant say. If he had asked you to do some great thing. If he had asked you to give him 10,000 dollars, if he had asked you to go out and erect a great monument, you would have been only too willing. Salvation is simple, isn't it?

v. 14 At the river

We could describe this scene with many words as this old leper goes down to the river's edge. He probably puts a foot in, and says well nothing has changed yet.

AN HONORABLE CAPTAIN CONVERTED (II Kings 5)

v. 1 - Naaman, commander-in-chief of Syria, won many battles.

King Benhadad
Snow White horse
uniform - Medal etc.

But a leper. Had all the world could offer. The word "but he was a leper" changes the whole picture. The rich young ruler had everything, and yet, he lacked one thing.

A leper is a condition where the raw flesh, with slow progress parts off the limbs and drops off. In India, Japan, China, Africa, South America, and some other nations, this disease still rages.

It is a type of sin in portrayal. It is very small in its beginning, and there is no cure, they say, but one is at the mercy of the disease.

v. 2-3 The little maid

First, she did not forget her religion when away from home. She had had Godly upbringing, as Joseph and Daniel, she had convictions, for in verse 3, she said, "I know he could help."

(How do you know) that he could help? Then probably she related the story of how that one day a boy went out into the grain field, and there had a sun stroke, and was carried back to the house, and the prophet was called, and the child was restored back to health again.

She could have said, "Let this old heathen die, he and the whole nation deserves such," but she did not render evil for evil. We must remember that she had been torn away from her family by soldiers.

She was a Christian that counted. Many cannot say they are devoted to their church because the church does not get their service.

The adhesion of the barnacle does not indicate that it belongs to the vessel. Clinging to the church roll does not

Old Negro - chn gotta walk - amen amen - ch gotta run amen, Harriet

prove that you belong to the living church.

Barnacles do not help the progress of the ship, but hinder it. Genuine Christian living is needed. Spiritual acts are more difficult than physical. It is easier to send a check than it is to take oneself to God's house, for sincere worship. It is easier to profess than to practice it. We need a revival of New Testament Christian discipleship. It seems that we have made discipleship too easy.

Jesus did not make it easy for his followers, for he insisted upon separation, surrender, and sacrifice.

A church does not gain weight by tolerating indifferent, worldly, and ungodly members. (Gideon's army of 32,000 did not lose any strength when 22,000 fearful and trembling cowards went home and then it was discovered that 9,700 could not be trusted, and he had only 300 left. There is no restraint upon Jehovah to save by many or by few (I Sam. 14:6)

What we need is the enlistment of every redeemed man and woman in the kingdom of God. Why should there be a professing Christian anywhere, failing to make his life count by the grace of God?

The unused ability of the church is the exultation of hell, the surprise of heaven, the loss of man, and the grief of God, as some Christian has so stated. They never come, they never pay, they're unused church members.

We have heard of Christians who say that 3 hours of any movie are harmless for the child, but that 2 hours of church and Sunday School are too much for his nervous system.

There are Christians who give the child a nickel for the collection in Sunday School and 50 cents for the movie, which shows their sense of values.

They will let their children listen to several hours of radio thrillers, but have no time for a short prayer or a few Bible verses.

There are some who let the children go to Sunday School while they idle away the Lord's Day, saying "let the child make his own decision."

We may not have to face the Lion's Den, or the dungeon or fire or sword, or prison, but we do face evil. There was a time when we were whole Christians, and some of our forefathers were Christians and a half. Behold today we have many half-time Christians, who have no convictions, no true living, and would not be true until death

I once heard of a woman who had followed all the isms of the day, and then said to a preacher, "I'm unhappy" and he replied, "But it makes no difference how you change the label on an empty bottle."

This little maid witnessed. She was a Christian away from home.

v. 4-5 Plans are made to send Naaman.

The money is packed as this seems proper in order for him to go and make an impression. A heathen must have material things to present to his gods.

And it also states in v.

v. 6-7 He comes before the king.

In verse 6 it states that Naaman brought his letter with him.—he surely must have not been a Baptist.

The king said to him, "Am I God to kill and to make alive?" You must remember that Israel and Syria were bitter enemies, and therefore the king possibly thought this to be some sort of trap or insult to him.

*Joram, Son of Achaz, Ivory Palace -
Pick quarrett.*

v. 8-10 Elisha

v. 8 Send him to me, and I'll let him know that there is a God in Israel.

v. 9 Naaman and horses appear before the cottage of Elisha.

v. 10 Elisha sent the message, "Go dip in Jordan seven times and you shall be clean.

This was a command with a promise. It was like the Philippian jailor. He was instructed to believe, and the promise was "Thou shalt be saved. The command is "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden," and the promise is "I will give you rest"

He dips himself three times, and he's the same old leper. Go down 7 times, the good servant encourages from the shore.

He goes down the 7 times, and he comes up a new creature. His flesh was as smooth as a baby.

✓ (Whenever you take time to go down to the altar) and lose your pride, and humble yourself, you will come up a new creature. (I Cor. 5:17)

✓ At a testimony meeting, people were telling of their sins, they were confessing the various things that they had been guilty of. One man stood and said, "I am guilty of all of these things, but the meanest thing I did in all my life, until 3 o' clock this morning, was rejecting Jesus Christ."

V. 15-16 Acknowledgement of God. Naaman travels down a public road going back to Elisha's cottage. It was not a closed carriage and he was not ashamed of his profession of faith in God.

The story is told of Dr. Cortland Myers riding on a train going to an engagement. There were 4 children behind him pulling on his seat, and finally he put up his books, and entertained the children with stories. He bought them some candy. And when they left the train, a man said to him, "Thank you, that is real Christianity, this is the grandmother with the children,--the mother is dead ^{in sin}. People watch to see if your Christianity is all talk. Naaman had been changed and he came back to acknowledge that change.

✓ He wanted to give Elisha gifts, but Elisha would receive no gifts, because (salvation is free) without charge. Gift of God

✓ What are you waiting for, sinner? Some say, I'm waiting for a better understanding of the Bible. I cannot understand and until I do, I will not accept Christ. I confess to you tonight that no man except God, ever hoped to know all the truths of this great Book.

Are you waiting for better terms to be offered. People always want an easy way, but God's terms are stationery

Are you waiting for the church to get right. Many stand on the outside and say, "I'm as good as this one in the church

Ames Park Oct, 15, 189 A.M. ✓
Brent Sept, 20, 1987 A.M. - ✓
S W - April - 75 A.M. ✓
So. Norfolk May 18, 1980 ✓
So. Norfolk July 20, 69 A.M. ✓
So. Norfolk May 12, 1963 P.M. ✓
So. Norfolk - Sept - 1956.
Zion Eastern Shore, Oct. 1955
Kingland Richmond, March 30, 1955
Central Norfolk - Sept. 20, 1954
Oranock va, Nov. 1952
Calvary Cent Oct - 1953
So. Norfolk - Aug. 26, 1953
So. Norfolk - Oct. 1953

and usually it is some lame member, and they go on to say, I know better men in the world,--therefore they are waiting for the church to get right. Why measure yourself by a hypocrite? Why not take a first class Christian, and you would look like a rat terror by an elephant. Don't wait for the church. You get right yourself.

Are you waiting until you are good enough? X When I think I'm all right, I will become a Christian then. That is like putting food on a table, and saying "I cannot eat, my hands are dirty, but here is soap and water." God knows that we're unfit, and that's why we're here tonight.

Are you waiting for more time? X I do not want to consider this in a hurry, you say. Does anybody need very much time to consider whether (he wants to be a good man or a bad man?) How long ought it to take a sensible individual to decide about eternity? This is a question that some of you should have settled 15 years ago. It could not be that you want more time. If you want to do good, God will help you. If you want to do bad, the devil will help you.

v. 17 Determined to worship God.

He carries some of the soil back with him.

Tucked away is a curl of hair perhaps in an old Bible, or a faded flower.

Billy Sunday said a man came to him once, and wanted a bag of the sawdust from the front where the altar was. When he asked why he said, "When I stray, I can kneel upon this, and remember that this was some of the same upon which I knelt and first surrendered my life to the Lord."

God never holds the past against a man, if he meets his conditions. If you will lose your pride, then you will lose your disease.

God won't take any stock of your position in life.

Dr. L. R. Scarborough had an evangelistic singer to be taken sick. He had a tumor on the brain. While the operation was going on, they looked in from a big glass window, and the singer's daughter looked in and saw how the doctors had the top of his head open. She turned to Dr. Scarborough and said, "Daddy must be in an awful fix for them to have to do all of that to him." We as sinners were in an awful fix, because God had to send his son to die on a cross

Naaman went 100 miles to get saved. How far will you go?

I was holding a meeting in N. C. sometime ago, and a man came from Norfolk, brought his family. He was not a Christian. And even waited all through the invitation, and after the benediction had been pronounced he came up and said, "I want to confess my sins right now."

You are impressed—that isn't enough. God wants you to go all the way.

Instantaneous sal. — Sinful woman — Publican — Thief —
Jailer —

Nothing to compare to this sal. —

When Chopin, the famous Polish composer, left Warsaw at the age of twenty to display his genius in the music capitals of Europe, he was tormented by the conviction that he would never see his native land again.

Therefore he filled a small silver cup with Polish soil, and, wherever he traveled, kept the precious cup near him. Twenty years later he died in Paris of tuberculosis. As his coffin was being lowered into the earth, his friends, who had remembered his prized possession, thoughtfully scattered its contents over his grave! Although he had traveled extensively, they knew his heart was still in Poland!

Christians are in the world, but they are not of it! Their true affections are centered on a BETTER LAND. We are "strangers" and "pilgrims" in this world for our true citizenship lies ABOVE. From the moment that CHRIST comes to dwell within, we have a bit of "HEAVEN IN OUR HEARTS". Even as Chopin constantly had his small silver cup with him — filled with a portion of his native land — so we too have within us the HOLY SPIRIT, "which is the earnest of our inheritance" (Eph. 1:14). Each passing day finds us one day nearer our HEAVENLY HOME. God grant that each day finds us closer to HIM.