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shows in our terrible crimes and our pitiable alcoholics.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life", says the wise man in Proverbs 4:23. How are we to keep our hearts?

1. *Keep our hearts sound and well and clean.* A good many people go to the doctor regularly for a check-up on their physical hearts. Do we go regularly to the Great Physician for a check-up on the spiritual condition of our souls? Do we ask Him to search us and try us and see if there is any wicked way in us?

The Bible says that naturally the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked; sometimes as hard as a rock. Such a heart needs to be "born again" regenerated, resurrected, quickened from the dead.

The Pharisees of Jesus' day were deeply concerned about washing their hands. Jesus told them that it was not unwashed hands that defiled, but unwashed hearts. Are our hearts cleansed by the blood of Christ?

2. *Keep our hearts fixed:* my heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord, sang the Psalmist. Blessed is the man whose heart is fixed on the Lord.

A derelict is a drifting ship with no one to guide it; no rudder or compass, or captain at the wheel.

There are many men and women like this today. Perhaps their hearts are fixed on business or home or pleasure and they are helpless when the storms come. Fix our hearts on Him, and we will have Someone to help us in our time of need.

3. *Keep our hearts full:* someone has said that "an empty heart is the devil's throne".

Of course a heart can be full of evil. Some men's hearts seem that way, for our jails and penal institutions are full of such people and there are many more at large.

We can fill our hearts with trash, for there is plenty of it in our books and magazines and newspapers.

We can fill our hearts with the noble, beautiful and enriching things which abound. Paul gives us a list in Philippians 4:8 and says think on these things.

Where I am sitting now I can see over one hundred beautiful Christmas cards which have been stuck in my books and almost cover my library. So the world is full of the good and lovely, if we but look for them.

4. *Keep our hearts tender:* "because thy heart was tender", said God to the young king Josiah.

Some hearts are like stone: we need hearts of flesh.

Hearts that are broken and contrite, turning from and hating sin.

Hearts that respond to the call of God.

Hearts that have compassion upon our fellow-men.

Hearts that forgive as we hope to be forgiven

God loves people with tender hearts.

Keep our heart, for out of it are the issues of life; this life, and the life to come.

The only way to keep our hearts is to give them to the Saviour Who says My son, My daughter, give me thine heart. He can keep for time and for eternity. Have you committed your heart to Him?

—J. K. P.

Two Misplaced Stanzas

The *Hymnbook* has many excellent features. For one thing it is possible to find metrical versions of the Psalms, whereas in the older *Presbyterian Hymnal* it is hard to find a real metrical version of any but the 23rd Psalm . . . though there are a few paraphrases of others.

But there are slips in the *Hymnbook*, among them being at least two misplaced stanzas. It is tragic to have the grand hymn, "Mighty God, while angels bless thee", Hymn No. 10 mutilated by the deletion of this great stanza:

But thy rich, Thy free redemption,
Bright, tho' veiled in darkness long.
Tho't is poor and poor expression—
Who can sing that wondrous song?
Brightness of the Father's glory,
Shall my praise unuttered lie?
Break, my tongue, such guilty silence!
Sing the Lord Who came to die.

It is no adequate excuse to say that often the third stanza is omitted and that only three stanzas are desired. The great truth of this stanza is lacking and the movement of thought is broken so that the fourth stanza is sung without full understanding.

The excuse that only three stanzas are appropriate, however, falls to pieces when one picks up in the *Hymnbook* a Christmas hymn No. 158 in which one of the four verses suggests the invocation of the saints, particularly those of whom Rome has made so much, Mary and Joseph. By all means let the following be omitted and the verse deleted from "Mighty God" be restored:

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.

Let's not start Mariolatry either by invoking her aid to sing our Christmas carols or by Ave Marias as solos. For there is one God and ONE MEDIATOR between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. The distinctive mark of Christian prayer is that it is offered in the all-prevailing Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We take refuge under the covert of His sacrifice and under the shield of His intercession. For His sake, His God is our God and His Father our Father.

—W. C. R.

The Results of Sin Live On

Through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ who died for us on the cross, our sins may be forgiven and we may be "washed as white as snow" but had you ever considered the fact that the results, the effects of sin live on even though we have repented and been forgiven?

The young man in his youth perhaps "sowed some wild oats". The effects may be and often are visited on unborn future generations. Perhaps in our past we did someone a grievous wrong and that person may be living today an embittered, ruined life. If we are worldly, carnal Christians, what is our example doing to those who look up to us and model their lives after ours? Example is a powerful thing and every Christian can ill afford to overlook its effects on others. Perhaps there are weeds in our minds, memories of the "wasted years" before we were saved. What are their effects, on ourselves, on others? Can we afford to sit idly with folded arms, secure in our own salvation? True we may be saved but because of our acts, others may be lost.

Some things cannot be undone. The spoken word cannot be unspoken. The thing that is done cannot be undone in its effects. Shouldn't we Christians then take careful thought of each act of our lives, of every spoken word and measure each by the yardstick laid down for us by our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord?

—R. LeC.

The Unique Christ

His birth was contrary to the laws of life. His death was contrary to the laws of death. He had no cornfields or fisheries but He could spread a table for five thousand and have bread and fish to spare. He walked on no beautiful carpets or velvet rugs, but He walked on the waters of the sea of Galilee and they supported Him.

When He died few men mourned. But a black crepe was hung over the sun. Though men trembled not for their sins, the earth beneath

them shook under the load. All nature honoured Him. Sinners alone rejected Him. Corruption could not get hold of His body. The soil that had been reddened with His blood could not claim His dust.

Three years He preached His gospel. He wrote no book, built no church house, had no monetary backing. But after nineteen hundred years, He is the one central character of human history, the Pivot around which the events of the ages revolve, and the only Regeneration of the Human Race.

Was it merely the Son of Joseph and Mary, who crossed the world's horizon nineteen hundred years ago? Was it merely human blood that was spilled on Calvary's Hill for the redemption of sinners? What thinking man can keep from exclaiming: "My Lord and My God!"

(Anon.)

Living Epistles

II. Cor. 3:2,3.

By Martin A. Hopkins

Many non-Christians never read the Bible, but they do read us Christians. They know that we claim to be Christians; but if they see us lie and cheat and lose our tempers, they will say: "These Christians are not different from non-Christians; I do not want to be a Christian." But if they see that we really seek to follow the Lord, they may want to follow Him too.

There are three kinds of Greek manuscripts that illustrate three kinds of Christians; these manuscripts are known as Uncials, Cursives and Palimpsests. The Uncials are written in big letters (See Gal. 6:11 in RSV) and are clear and easy to read. Some Christians are like this. They are out and out for Christ, and really seek to follow Him (Rev. 14:4b). Everybody can easily see this (Acts 4:13).

But there are Christians like the Cursives, written in a sort of running hand, and are much harder to read. They are not big and bold and clear, and you have to watch them quite a while before you are sure that they are Christians, yet with care you can read them plainly.

There are other Christians who are like Palimpsests. These were written on sheepskin or parchment. These were used for the most important writings. They were very costly; so sometimes men would rub out the writing on an old parchment and write fresh things over the top of the old writing. Often the old are more important than the new, and now men try to discover the old writing underneath. They use chemicals, and with care have found out some very valuable old manuscripts.