

# Matthew 6:20



Words to Find:  
 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

## Doing It on Their Own

*H. W. Beecher*



Many say, "I can find God without the help of the Bible, or church, or minister." Very well. Do so if you can.

The ferry company would feel no jealousy of a man who should prefer to swim to New York City, rather than ride in their ferry. Let him do so if he is able, and we will talk about it on

the other shore; but probably trying to swim would be the thing that would bring him quickest to the boat. So God would have no jealousy of a man's going to heaven without the aid of the Bible, church, or minister; but let him try to do so, and it will be the surest way to bring him back to them for assistance.

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## A Failure?

*Cameron*

Many years ago a merchant's business had failed. He went home greatly upset.

"What is the matter?" asked his wife.

"I am ruined. I will be a beggar. I have lost it all!" he exclaimed, pressing his hands upon his forehead.

"All?" said his wife. "No. I am left."

"All, papa?" questioned his eldest boy. "Here I am!"

"And I too," piped in his little girl, running up and putting her arms around his neck.

"I'm not lost, papa," repeated Eddy.

"And you have your health left," said his wife.

"And your hands to work with," said the eldest, "and I can help you."

"And your two feet, papa, to carry you about, and your two eyes to see with, papa," said little Eddie.



## Appearance of Evil

*John Bate*

A thing may have the appearance of wrong-doing and not be evil in itself, just as an apple may have the appearance of sweetness and soundness, and yet be both sour and rotten. Why, then are we to abstain from the "appearance of evil"?

1. Because most judge by the appearance, and would therefore judge us wrongfully.
2. Because in this judgment our characters would be damaged and Christianity be defamed.
3. Because by following the appearance of doing something wrong, we would promote and encourage evil itself.
4. Because we are positively commanded to keep from even looking like we are doing something sinful.
5. Because it is directly inconsistent with the good we profess we do.
6. Because by abstaining from even looking like we are doing something wrong, we do not appear as hypocrites.

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***“He who knows no hardships will know no hardship. He who faces no calamity will need no courage. Mysterious though it is, the characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of trouble.”***

— Harry Emerson Fosdick

### **A Failure?**

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“And you have God’s promises,” said the grandmother.

“And a good God,” said his wife.

“And a heaven to go to,” said his little girl.

“And Jesus who came to fetch us there,” said his eldest.

“God forgive me!” said the poor merchant, bursting into tears. “I have not lost it all. What I have lost is nothing compared to what I have,” and he took comfort, and began the world afresh.

### **A Good Example**

*Author Unknown*

A chaplain told this story of a young soldier who consulted with a question of Christian duty. “Last night,” said the young man, “in my barrack, before going into bed, I knelt down and prayed in a low voice, when suddenly my comrades began to throw their boots at me, and laughed at me.”

“Well,” replied the chaplain, “suppose you defer your prayer until you get into bed, and then silently lift up your heart to God?”

A week or two afterwards, the young soldier called again. “Well,” said the chaplain, “you took my advice, I suppose? How has it gone?”

“Sir,” he answered, “I did take your advice for one or two nights, but I began to think it looked rather like I was denying my Saviour, and I once more knelt at my bedside, and prayed in a low whisper as before.”

“And what happened?”

“Not one of them laughs now, sir, the whole fifteen each kneel and pray, too.”

“I felt ashamed,” added the chaplain in narrating the story, “of the advice I had given him. That young man was both wiser and bolder than I was.”

### **A Burden for Others**

*K. Arvine*

Ancient history records that a certain city was besieged, and at length obliged to surrender. In that city there were two brothers who had, in some way, obliged the conquering general; and because of this, received permission to leave the city before it

**“A good example has twice the value of good advice.”**

was destroyed, taking with them as much of their property as each could carry. Accordingly, the two generous youths, appeared at the gates of the city, one of them carrying their father, and the other their mother.

If we could all be as generous and burdened as those brothers that after we get saved, we would have the concern to tell as many family members, friends and neighbors the way to heaven, more would be going to heaven!

### **The Lament of a Backslider**

*Author Unknown*

*Where is the Saviour now,  
Whose smiles I once possessed?  
Till He return, I bow,  
By heavy grief oppressed.  
My days of happiness are gone,  
And I am left to weep alone.*

*Where can the mourner go,  
And tell his tale of grief?  
Ah, who can soothe his woe,  
Ah, who can give relief?  
Earth cannot heal the wounded breast  
Or give the troubled conscience rest.*

*Jesus, Thy smiles impart;  
My gracious Lord, return,  
Bind up my broken heart  
And bid me cease to mourn;  
Then shall this night of sorrow flee,  
And peace in heaven be found in Thee.*

### **Christ, Forever**

*S. Coley*

When King Ptolemy built Pharos he wanted his name upon it. Sostratus, the architect, did not think that the king, who only



paid the money for its construction, should get all the credit while he had none. Sostratus put the king’s name on the front of the structure in plaster, but underneath, in the eternal granite, the architect had his name chiseled deep into the stone.

The sea dashed against the plaster and chipped it off bit by bit. I dare say it lasted out the time of Ptolemy, but by and by the plaster was chipped away, and there stood the name “Sostratus”.

I am not sure that there are not “waves” that will chip off all human names from the true church that Christ built. I am sure that the one name of Christ shall last forever after all others fade away.

**“If you want your neighbor to see what the Christ spirit will do for him, let him see what it has done for you.”**

— H. Beecher