

A Sinless Life

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

What testimony is borne concerning Christ's life on earth?

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."
1 Peter 2:22.

What is true of all other members of the human family?

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23.

With what question did Christ challenge His enemies?

"Which of you convinceth me of sin?" John 8:46.

CHRIST'S HUMANITY AND TEMPTATION

To what extent was Christ tempted?

"[He] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15.

In His humanity, of what nature did Christ partake?

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, *he also himself likewise took part of the same*; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Hebrews 2:14.

How fully did Christ share our common humanity?

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Verse 17.

NOTE.—Jesus Christ is both Son of God and Son of man. As a member of the human family "it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren"—"in the likeness of sinful flesh." Just how far that "likeness" goes is a mystery of the incarnation which men have never been able to solve. The Bible clearly teaches that Christ was tempted just as other men are tempted—"in all points ... like as we are." Such temptation must necessarily include the possibility of sinning;

but Christ was without sin. There is no Bible support for the teaching that the mother of Christ, by an immaculate conception, was cut off from the sinful inheritance of the race, and therefore her divine Son was incapable of sinning. Concerning this false doctrine Dean F.W. Farrar has well said:

"Some, in a zeal at once intemperate and ignorant, have claimed for Him not only an actual sinlessness but a nature to which sin was divinely and miraculously impossible. What then? If His great conflict were a mere deceptive phantasmagoria, how can the narrative of it profit us? If we have to fight the battle clad in that armour of human free-will, ... what comfort is it to us if our great Captain fought not only victoriously, but without real danger; not only uninjured, but without even the possibility of a wound? ... Let us beware of contradicting the express teaching of the Scriptures, ... by a supposition that He was not liable to real temptation."—*The Life of Christ* (1883 ed.), vol. 1, p. 57.

GOD'S DEMONSTRATION OF VICTORY

Where did God, in Christ, condemn sin, and gain the victory for us over temptation and sin?

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, *condemned sin in the flesh*." Romans 8:3.

NOTE.—God, in Christ, condemned sin, not by pronouncing against it merely as a judge sitting on the judgment seat, but by coming and living *in the flesh*, and yet without sinning. In Christ, He demonstrated that it is possible, by His grace and power, to resist temptation, overcome sin, and *live a sinless life in the flesh*.

By whose power did Christ live the perfect life?

"The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but *the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works*." John 14:10.

NOTE.—In His humanity Christ was as dependent upon divine power to do the works of God as is any man to do the same thing. He employed no means to live a holy life that are not available to every human being. Through Him, every one may have God dwelling in him and working in him "to will and to do of his good pleasure." (1 John 4:15; Philippians 2:13.)

What unselfish purpose did Jesus ever have before Him?

"For I came down from heaven, *not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me*." John 6:38.