RULES FOR RIGHT LIVING AND RIGHT CONDUCT: FROM THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS THE CHRIST

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Rules for Right Living and Right Conduct: From the Teachings of Jesus the Christ by Anonymous

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PREFACE

In the education of our children we very wisely take great pains to give them rules—rules to apply to their mathematics, their grammar, composition, rhetoric, etc. Later, some will be taught rules for engineering, for surveying, for navigation, or for whatever occupation they may choose.

But hitherto we have set these children adrift on the great ocean of existence without giving them any rules for living, or for the conduct of life. We give them neither rudder nor compass by which to steer their ship of life across the stormy waters of this world; neither map nor chart to enable them to avoid ship-wreck and to reach in safety the shore of the great Hereafter.

And yet, we wonder that so much character is hopelessly ship-wrecked!

This little book, containing some of the rules given us by the one great Teacher, hopes to supply this deficiency and make safer and happier the voyage which all must take to that far-off shore.

In Mohammedan countries they study and obey their Koran; the Jews are wonderfully obedient to the laws of Moses; why should not we, in this Christian land, give to our children the same opportunity to learn, and require of them the same obedience to, the teachings of Christ? In failing to do this are we not depriving them of their birthright? Are we not robbing them of what is the very foundation stone of true education?

Until this is done no one can truly say that the Christian Religion has ever been fairly tried.

The man who knows and obeys the teachings of Christ is a good, safe and honorable citizen, even if he knows little else.

A bad man, putting his knowledge to bad uses, becomes more dangerous the more he knows.

Therefore it seems that, without doubt, goodness is the essential foundation of all worthy and useful life. So, let us teach our young people, first of all, to be good. The rest will follow.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these (other good) things shall be added unto you," is a promise we can safely trust, for when that is done, all the laws and forces of God's universe are working with and for us. And, "if God be for us, who can be against us?"

These little lessons, far more interesting than the multiplication table, less difficult to remember, and of infinitely greater importance in the life of the child, should be learned by heart, and the children told and required to put them in practice every day, in the school, in the play-ground, in the street, in the home, and all through their lives in their contact with their fellow men.

"By beginning the practice of these rules when young, habits of right thinking and right doing will be formed, and these will prove an anchor to the soul when the temptations of the world have to be met."

Chapter and verse have not been given in these lessons, as they are comparatively

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unimportant and more difficult to remember than the verses themselves, but they may be found in the Index.

It has been difficult to select, where all is priceless, but there are certain passages which seem absolutely indispensable in the formation of character, and these, as far as possible, have been placed among the earliest lessons.

In the study of this little book it is thought desirable that the teachers make no comments on the text unless asked to do so, for, as children are naturally religious, it is hoped and believed the heart of each child will respond, in its own way, to the words and teachings of the divine Master.

Dear Children and Friends:

God, our heavenly Father, has put us into this world to be happy and to be good, and to make this beautiful world a little better for our being in it.

In order that we may know how to do this, He sent His well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, to show us the way, and teach us how to be good and how to be happy; for we cannot be happy unless we are good.

This little book contains some of the rules that the dear Lord gave us to show us how to live rightly. If you learn these rules by heart, and are careful to obey them always, they will give you more joy and happiness in this world and, at last, lead you safely into Heaven.

E. A. W.