

SHORT SERMONS FOR THE PEOPLE

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Short Sermons for the People by Wm. S. Plumer

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WM. S. PLUMER

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FOR THE PEOPLE**

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BY

REV. WM. S. PLUMER, D.D.



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SERMON I.

A CALL TO PIETY.

Unto you, O men, I call.—Prov. viii. 4.

WILL you now listen to some plain words? They shall be kind. They shall be true. They relate to the most weighty things. They concern your well-being now, and for ever.

1. There is a God. All nature says so. The heavens declare his glory. The earth is full of his goodness. In him we live, and move, and have our being. God is one. He is almighty and all-wise. He alone is good. There is none with him. There is none like him. There is none beside him.

2. This God is holy and just. He is a ruler among the nations. He is a great King. He cannot deny himself. He hates sin. It is not certain that he hates anything else. But it is certain that he hates sin with all his heart. To him sin is horrible and abom-

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inable. With him is no iniquity. Just and right is he in all his ways, and in all his works.

3. This God has given to us a law. This law, like himself, is holy, just, and good. Its precepts require that our thoughts, words, and deeds should be holy. They forbid all sin. They require all righteousness. We can neither think, nor say, nor do anything, which is not either right or wrong in the eye of this law, which never changes, and which is the rule of conduct to angels as well as men.

4. The penalty of this law is death. He who breaks it is under the displeasure of God; and it is right he should be. The death threatened to the sinner includes all penal evil, whether in this world or the next. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." It deserves to die. For one sin many angels were hurled from heaven down to hell. For one sin our first parents were driven out of Eden. For one murder many a man has been hanged. For one lie Gehazi became a leper as white as snow. For one unadvised speech God would not permit Moses to enter the land of Canaan. In the punishment it inflicts God's law is as righteous as in the duties it enjoins and the sins it forbids.

5. You have a soul—a soul that will live for ever in happiness or in misery. And you have but *one*

soul. You have two ears ; though one of them be stopped you may hear with the other. You have two eyes : in one of them you may be blind, yet with the other you may see very well. Yet you have but one soul. If you lose that, all is lost.

6. That soul is worth saving. It shall exist as long as there is a heaven or a hell ; as long as there are men, or angels, or a God. That soul may be very happy—as happy as an angel ; and it may be very miserable—as miserable as a devil. It can rise high, and shine gloriously in the presence of God. It can sink to low vices, to deep ruin, yea, to the lowest hell. It is worth so much that no man can tell its value. One may be worth tens of millions of dollars, and you can tell exactly how much would buy him out ; but if the whole earth were solid gold, one soul would be worth a thousand times more than it all.

7. Your poor soul needs to be saved. It is now lost. It is dead in trespasses and sins. By nature you were without Christ, an alien from the commonwealth of Israel, a stranger from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. Without divine grace, no man loves God, fears God, trusts God, obeys God, or lives unto God. God's word says you need salvation. Your conscience says you need salvation. Your best friends know